


THE HAND OF

FATE

AGE



MIDNIGHT! MASKS OFF! EEEK!
WHAT KIND OF A MASQUERADE PARTY
IS THIS? THOSE HORRIBLE, EVIL
MASKS ARE EXACTLY LIKE
THEIR REAL FACES!

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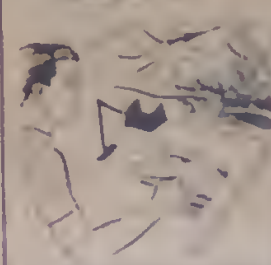
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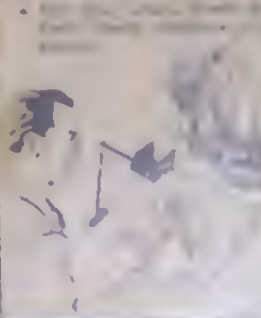
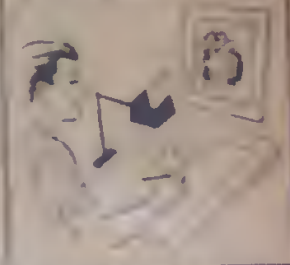
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DEAD RINGER

MR VICTOR MURRAIN AND MR. HUBERT NEWTON. THE STEWARDESS AND I WERE JUST NOTICING HOW MUCH YOU TWO MEN LOOK ALIKE /

I NOTICED IT MYSELF---AND SO DID MR NEWTON BUT WE CAME FROM DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD /



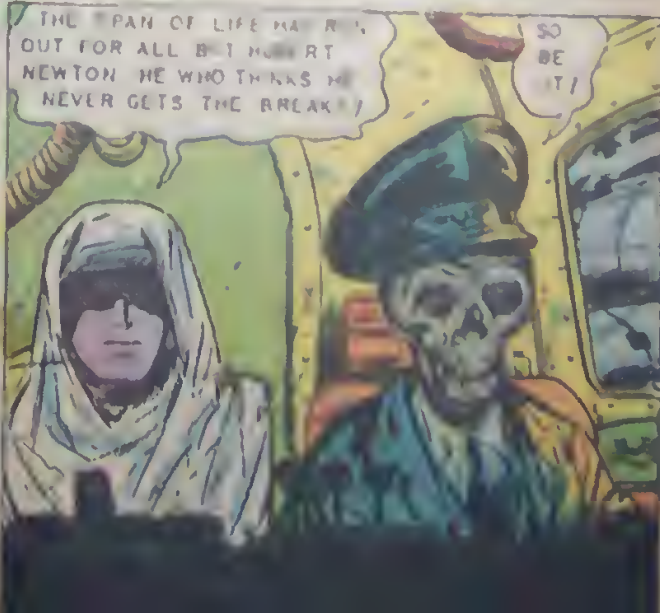
ON A COLD AND FOGGY NIGHT IN NOVEMBER, A GROUP OF PEOPLE STOOD AT LA GUINIA FIELD AWAITING THE DECISION OF THE OFFICIALS CONCERNING THE SO-CALLED NEW YORK-PARIS FLIGHT. HUBERT NEWTON AND VIC MURRAIN HAD NEVER SEEN EACH OTHER UNTIL A FEW MOMENTS BEFORE, AND NEITHER OF THEM WAS AWARE THAT THE MISTERY OF FATE STOOD CLOSE BESIDE THEM

HE'S ONE OF THOSE GUYS WHO ALWAYS GETS THE BREAKS! HE'S ON HIS WAY TO FRANCE TO CLAIM A TITLE, A CASTLE AND A FORTUNE! BUT I'M ON MY WAY TO WORK LIKE A DOG IN A LOUSY FRENCH NIGHTCLUB!

WELL GENTLEMEN, IT IS SAFE TO TAKE OFF NOW -- SO TAKE YOUR PLACES!

THE SPAN OF LIFE HAS RUN OUT FOR ALL BUT HUBERT NEWTON HE WHO THINKS HE NEVER GETS THE BREAKS!

SO BE IT!



DEATH AND I TOOK OUR PLACES AT THE CONTROLS AS THE PLANE ROSE ABOVE THE FOG. AND THE PASSENGERS SETTLED DOWN. IT WAS JUST AS WELL THEY DID NOT KNOW WHAT LAY AHEAD, OR WHO SAT AT THE CONTROLS.

GUYS LIKE YOU ARE JUST BORN. LUCKY! THERE'S NOT A CHANCE OF ANYBODY DYING AND LEAVING ME THAT KIND OF VELVET!



I DON'T EXPECT ANYTHING LIKE THIS TO EVER HAPPEN TO ME, EITHER. I WAS DOING ALL RIGHT. I'D WORKED MY WAY UP IN THE FIGHT GAME. I'D FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT MY OLD MAN COMING FROM FRANCE!



I'D NEVER PAID MUCH ATTENTION TO HIS TALK OF THE TITLE THE FAMILY HAD BEFORE THE FRENCH REVOLUTION. MY FATHER WAS THE BLACK SHEEP, AND HAD RUN AWAY FROM HOME. BUT ACCORDING TO THE LETTER I GOT-- I'M THE LAST OF THE DE MURRAIN S. MY UNCLE DIED AND LEFT THE WHOLE WORKS TO ME!



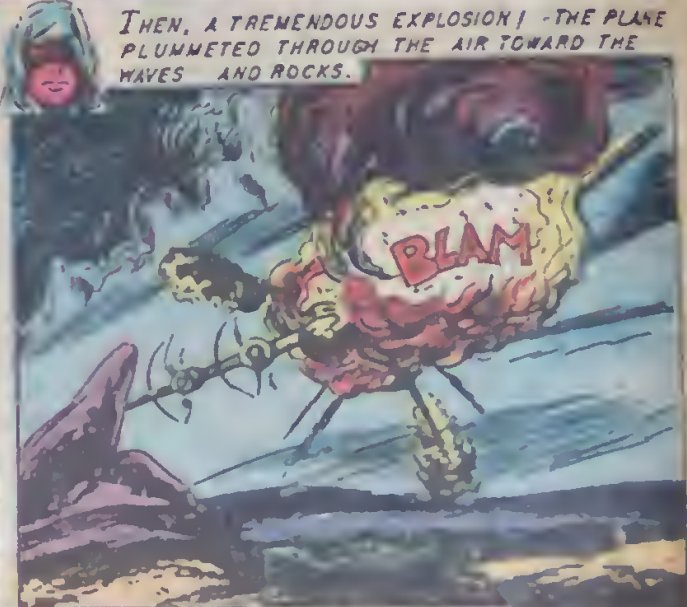
MEANWHILE...

BELOW IS THE COAST OF FRANCE!

THIS WAS THE DESTINATION DECREED-- THE END OF THE TRIP FOR ALL BUT ONE!



THEN, A TREMENDOUS EXPLOSION! - THE PLANE PLUMMETED THROUGH THE AIR TOWARD THE WAVES AND ROCKS.



THE POWER OF FATE TRANSCENDS ALL THE PHYSICAL LAWS OF THE UNIVERSE, HUBERT. EACH MAN IS ASSIGNED A PAGE IN THE BOOK OF FATE. UPON THIS PAGE THE FINGER OF ETERNITY HAS WRITTEN THAT WHICH IS TO BE. IT WAS WRITTEN UPON YOUR PAGE THAT YOU WOULD NOT DIE IN THIS CRASH!



THE WRECKAGE OF THE PLANE AND SOME OF THE BODIES WERE WASHED UP ON A ROCKY BEACH ON THE COAST OF FRANCE

VIC MURRAIN--OR COUNT VICTOR DE MURRAIN--AND HUBERT NEWTON SO MUCH ALIKE AND YET YOUR DESTINIES WERE QUITE DIFFERENT! IN SPITE OF YOUR BELIEF THAT YOU NEVER GET THE BREAKS, HUBERT, TO EACH IS APPOINTED HIS SHARE OF GOOD AND EVIL--ALTHOUGH EACH MAY INCREASE THE EVIL IN HIS LIFE BY HIS OWN FOLLY, AS YOU HAVE OFTEN DONE

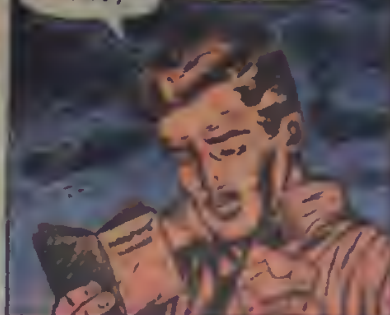


W-WHAT HAPPENED?

HE PLANE--THAT EXPLOSION/
THIS-- THIS IS THE GUY THAT
WAS GOING TO GET ALL THAT
DOUGH AND A TITLE / HE--
HE'S DEAD /



THAT COULD BE ME LYING T...
--AND SO COULD THIS PASSPO...
PICTURE / BUT WHY NOT / IT'S
TIME I GOT A BREAK / WHO'O
KNOW THE DIFFERENCE? I'LL
NEVER BE ANYTHING BUT A
SECOND-RATE NIGHTCLUB SINGER.
BUT WITH THESE PAPERS--WHY,
I CAN BE COUNT VICTOR DE
MURRAIN AND LIVE LIKE A
KING /



ALL I HAVE TO DO IS PUT MY
STUFF IN HIS POCKETS AND TAKE
HIS THINGS / WHO'S GOING TO CARE
IF HUBERT NEWTON IS REPORTED
KILLED IN A CRASH / THIS IS THE
FIRST STROKE OF LUCK
I'VE EVER HAD /



YOU WERE GIVEN AN IDENTITY AND A DESTINY
OF YOUR OWN, HUBERT / YOU MAY NOT ASSUME
OR STEAL THOSE THINGS ASSIGNED TO
ANOTHER /

WHO ARE YOU? HOW
DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?



I CARRY OUT THE UNCHANGEABLE DECISIONS OF
ALL THAT IS TO BE PERHAPS YOU CALL ME FATE
I KNOW YOUR NAME BECAUSE IT IS WRITTEN IN
MY BOOK AND YOUR
NAME IS NOT VC
MURRAIN /

LOOK, GUY-- I'M NOT IN A
MOOD TO PLAY GAMES I DON'T
KNOW WHY YOU'RE SNOOPING
AROUND HERE AND HANDING OUT
THAT LINE-- BUT I SAY MY
NAME IS VC MURRAIN /



AND JUST IN CASE
YOU WANT TO
MAKE SOMETHING
OF IT...OOOOPPS

YOU, WHO COMPLAIN OF
BAD BREAKS, SHOULD BE
HAPPY AND GRATEFUL THAT
YOU WERE SPORED-- THAT
YOUR LIFE IS AHEAD--
AND SUCCESS, TOO, IF YOU
WORK FOR IT / VC MURRAIN
CAN NEVER AGAIN ENJOY
LIFE AND LYING HE
IS DEAD /



THERE'S THE
WRECKAGE OF THE
PLANE WE SAW
FALL / BUT LOOK /
IT'S A MIRACLE /
A MAN
SURVIVES!

I--I MUST STILL BE GROSSY /
FATE / WHAT KIND OF DOPEY STUFF
IS THAT / HA / HERE COME THE
RESCUERS / GLAD I GOT THE
STUFF SWITCHED IN TIME, COUNT
VICTOR DE MURRAIN. THAT'S ME /

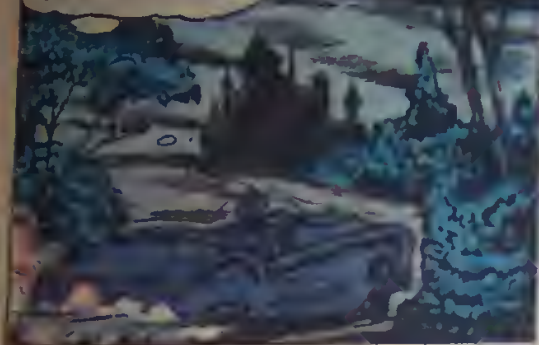
FOOL / I TRIED TO
WARN YOU / IF YOU DO
THIS THING YOU WILL
REGRET IT.





I TRIED TO WARN HIM, BUT HE WENT HIS HEEDLESS, GREEDY WAY. A FEW WEEKS LATER IN MAURIENNE, AN ISOLATED SECTION OF SOUTHERN FRANCE, HE GOT HIS FIRST VIEW OF MURRAIN CASTLE...

WHAT A LIFE! NOBODY QUESTIONED ME AT ALL IN PARIS. THEY ACCEPTED THE LETTERS AND PAPERS I TOOK FROM VIC'S BODY!



THEY TURNED THE DE MURRAIN BANK ACCOUNT OVER TO ME. I BOUGHT THIS CAR, SWELL CLOTHES, HAD A GOOD TIME---AND NOW I'M READY TO TAKE A LOOK AT MY CASTLE. LOOKS KIND OF CREEPY AROUND HERE THOUGH. I DON'T THINK I'LL STAY LONG. WITH THE DOUGH I'VE GOT NOW, IT'S THE BRIGHT SPOTS FOR ME!

YOU'VE MADE A BAD BARGAIN, HUBERT.... AS YOU WILL SOON SEE.



HUBERT REACHED THE CASTLE AND RANG THE ANCIENT BELLS. AN OLD BUTLER OPENED THE DOOR.

YOU'LL HAVE TO STEP AROUND HERE LIVELIER THAN THAT OR YOU'LL BE THROWN OUT ON YOUR EAR! I'M COUNT VICTOR DE MURRAIN! I OWN THIS DUMP...AND I EXPECT SOME SNAPPY SERVICE!

WE'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU, SIR!



AS HUBERT STEPPED INTO THE HALL...

THE SERVANTS ARE ALL LINED UP TO GREET THE NEW COUNT, SIR. AND THE FAMILY ARE WAITING IN THE DRAWING ROOM THEY ARE HAVING A PARTY IN YOUR HONOR, SIR.

ECOWWWW! WHAT KIND OF GAME IS THIS? UGH!



THEY'RE STINKING, ROTTIN' CORPSES! I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!

OH, NO, SIR! YOU MUSTN'T LEAVE US! COUNT DE MURRAIN BELONGS IN THE MURRAIN CASTLE! HEH/HEH!

GET OUT OF MY WAY, CREEP! I'M LEAVING!



AS HUBERT'S FIST HIT THE BONY CHIN OF THE CREATURE, IT WAS AS THOUGH AN ELECTRIC SHOCK WENT THROUGH HIS BODY.



WHEN THE SHOCK
WORE OFF, HUBERT
FOUND HIMSELF IN
THE CASTLE DRAWING
ROOM

COUNT VICTOR
DE MURRAIN!

IT IS SO NICE TO
SEE YOU, DEAR. PARDON
SOME OF US IF WE
DON'T WEAR OUR HEADS/
WE LOST THEM DURING
THE FRENCH REVOLUTION.
I AM YOUR GREAT-GREAT-
AUNT SOLANGE

NO...NO... THIS CAN'T
BE HAPPENING!

EEK! GET AWAY FROM ME, YOU
REFUGEES FROM THE TOMBS

I - I'M NO
RELATION
TO YOU!

YOU'RE SAYING THAT TOO
LATE, HUBERT YOU HAD YOUR
CHANCE BACK THERE ON THE
BEACH WHEN THE RESCUERS
FOUND YOU-- AND IN PARIS
WHEN YOU CLAIMED THE
ESTATE AND SWORE YOU
WERE VICTOR MURRAIN!

IT- IT'S A TRICK/ THEY'RE
TRYING TO TRAP ME, THEY'RE
JUST A LOT OF MOULDY BONES--
THEY FALL APART WHEN I
SHOVE THEM/ THEY-- THEY CAN'T
KEEP ME
HERE!

SUCH TERRIBLE
MANNERS FOR A DE
MURRAIN/ SHOVING HIS
OWN FAMILY
AROUND AND
CALLING THEM
NAMES!

I SHOULD HAVE STAYED IN
PARIS/ I--I'LL GET OUT OF
HERE AND GO BACK THERE/ THE
DE MURRAIN GHOSTS CAN STAY
HERE/ I'LL SELL THE JOINT/
BUT THE DEAD CAN'T HAVE THE
LIVING-- AND I'VE STILL GOT
THE MONEY!

AT LAST
A
DOOR!

DO YOU REALLY
THINK YOU CAN
ESCAPE RETRIBUTION
FOR THE COURSE YOU
POKED HUBERT?

THERE ARE MANY DOORS AND MANY
COURSES-- AND YOU HAVE CHOSEN THE WRONG
ONES. YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN SINGING TONIGHT IN
A NIGHTCLUB IN PARIS-- AS HUBERT NEWTON.
BUT YOU PREFERRED TO BECOME VICTOR
MURRAIN.

WHERE AM I
AND WHY IS THAT
COFFIN THERE?

YOU ARE VICTOR MURRAIN
FAMILY FUNERAL VAULT THAT
COFFIN AWAITS THE BODY OF
VICTOR DE MURRAIN

ALL OF THE De MURRAINS ARE BURIED HERE...AND YOU ARE VICTOR De MURRAIN BY YOUR OWN CHOICE!

NO! YOU KNOW I'M NOT VICTOR! I'M HUBERT NEWTON! I DON'T BELONG HERE.

WORD CAME TO US IN THE GREAT BEYOND THAT ANOTHER OF THE De MURRAINS WOULD JOIN HIS ANCESTORS IN THE WORLD OF THE DEAD. THIS COFFIN WAS PREPARED FOR HIM. IT SHALL NOT REMAIN EMPTY!

TELL THEM I'M NOT VICTOR! YOU SAW HIM... BACK THERE ON THE BEACH! THEY'VE ALREADY BURIED HIM! TELL THEM!



I CANNOT TELL THEM VICTOR De MURRAIN IS ALREADY BURIED...BECAUSE THE EARTHLY RECORDS STATE THAT THE MAN BURIED WAS HUBERT NEWTON! IT WAS YOUR DECISION THAT HUBERT NEWTON SHOULD LEAVE THE WORLD AND THAT YOU WOULD ACCEPT THE FATE OF VICTOR MURRAIN!

NO! NO!

TAKE AWAY YOUR HAND...IT PARALYZES ME! I CAN'T MOVE! I CAN'T THINK!



EVERYONE MARVELED AT THE GENEROSITY OF COUNT VICTOR De MURRAIN WHEN HE PAID FOR THE BURIAL OF A POOR NIGHT CLUB SINGER IN THIS FRENCH CEMETERY

I'LL HAVE THE BODY TAKEN UP! I'LL HAVE IT MOVED TO THE MURRAIN BURIAL VAULT IN THE CASTLE!



THOSE WHO FORGE THEIR NAMES ON THE BOOK OF FATE CANNOT ERASE THAT WHICH THEY HAVE WRITTEN. THERE CANNOT BE TWO VICTOR De MURRAINS...ONE WALKING THE EARTH, AND ONE LYING IN A COFFIN IN THE FAMILY VAULT!

Y-YOU'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE A CORPSE OUT OF ME JUST BECAUSE I'M WEARING A DEAD MAN'S NAME!

I'M STILL ALIVE AND I'M GOING TO STAY THAT WAY! YOU SAID YOURSELF THAT IT WASN'T TIME FOR ME TO DIE...AND THAT WHAT WAS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF FATE COULDN'T BE CHANGED!

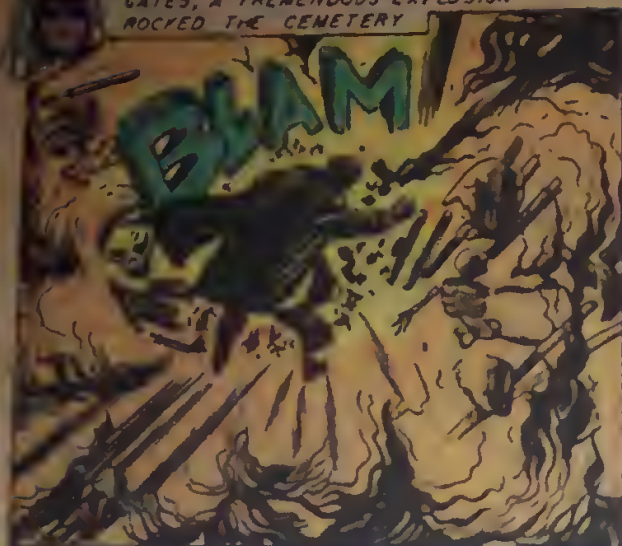
FOOLISH MORTAL! DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN CHEAT FATE!



NO! NO! TO ME! BUT THE OF YOU MOVING THAT I AWAY IS IN THE COFFIN

NO N I AM I AM ALIVE

SUDDENLY, AS HUBERT RAN TOWARD THE GATES, A TREMENDOUS EXPLOSION ROCKED THE CEMETERY



LE 10 GRAPICE

GAS MAIN RUNNING BENEATH CEMETERY EXPLODES IN FREAK ACCIDENT /

Body of Count De Murrain found in wreckage / The Count escaped death in a recent plane crash and the body of Hubert Newton, a victim of the same accident, whose burial was generously paid for by the Count, was found in a coffin nearby. Mr. Newton will be reburied, and Count De Murrain's body will be taken to the ancestral castle in Moulrénne for interment. The Count's presence in the cemetery at the time of the explosion cannot be explained.

NO/NO/ THEY CAN'T DO THIS TO ME/ I'M NOT DEAD/ BUT-- BUT THAT HORRIBLE POWER OF YOURS KEEPS ME FROM MOVING OR SPEAKING THAT-- THAT BODY THEY ARE CARRYING AWAY IS THE MAN WHO BELONGS IN THIS COFFIN /

NO, HUBERT / THIS IS YOUR COFFIN, YOUR GRAVE YOU YOURSELF PUT YOUR OWN NAME UPON IT /

BY SUPERNATURAL POWER THE BODY OF VICTOR WAS BLOWN OUT OF THAT COFFIN AND THE SAME EXPLOSION HURLED YOU THERE TO YOUR LAST RESTING PLACE THE REAL COUNT DE MURRAIN WILL BE BURIED WHERE HE BELONGS-- WITH HIS ANCESTORS

BUT: AM ALIVE YET IT IS NOT TIME FOR ME TO DIE / RELEASE ME FROM THIS DREADFUL SPELL SO THAT I CAN LET THEM KNOW I LIVE IF-- IF EACH MAN'S DESTINY IS FOREORDAINED-- THEN I CANNOT DIE NOW /

IT WAS WRITTEN UPON YOUR PAGE IN THE BOOK OF FATE, HUBERT, THAT YOU HAD TWENTY MORE YEARS OF LIFE BUT BECAUSE YOU DARED TAMPER WITH YOUR OWN DESTINY YOU WILL LIVE IN THE COFFIN BENEATH THE TOMBSTONE ON WHICH YOU WROTE YOUR OWN NAME UNTIL DEATH RELEASES YOU AT THE ALLOTTED TIME

NO NO I AM ALIVE/ I AM ALIVE/

THE FULFILMENT OF DESTINY IS INEXORABLE AND FAIR, HUBERT NO MAN MAY LEAD ANOTHER'S LIFE IN DEATH-- AS IN LIFE-- YOU AND VICTOR MUST HAVE THE IDENTITY ASSIGNED YOU YOU ARE THE ONE WHO ASSIGNED A GRAVE TO THE IDENTITY OF HUBERT NEWTON /

AS THE WORKMEN PLACED THE STONE BACK ON HUBERT'S GRAVE

THE EXPLOSION BLEW THE PIECE OF THE STONE OFF THAT HAD THE DATE OF DEATH ON IT

THE CORRECT DATE WAS WRITTEN LONG AGO, HUBERT NEWTON COULD NOT CHANGE IT /



MYSTERY of the

TAROT



CAN A MAN'S FATE LIE IN THE TURN OF A CARD? IN THE GYPSY TAROT, THE TAROT DECK OF CARDS STANDS AS A SYMBOL OF THE UNIVERSE. THE SEVENTY-EIGHT CARDS ARE THE LOOSE LEAVES OF A UNIVERSAL MAGIC BOOK, FOREVER BEING SHUFFLED, AND ONLY BY RETAINING THEIR RIGHTFUL SEQUENCE, NO MAN KNOWS WHEN THE STRANGE WILL. ON THE TAROT CARDS CAME INTO BEING, THEY ARE THE OLDEST CARDS KNOWN, AND THE ONLY CARDS WHO CAN READ THEM THEY ARE AN EYE OPENER TO THE FUTURE, A KEY OF KNOWLEDGE, A THIN BUNDLE OF PASTEBOARD STRIPS POSSESSED OF AN INEXHAUSTIBLE POWER. BUT LET US LOOK AT TIM MONCURE, WHO DID NOT BELIEVE IN FATE---THE STRANGE WARNING OF THE TAROT.

TIM MONCURE AND HIS WIFE MARIA WERE MARRIED WHEN THEY WERE SEVENTEEN AND BOTH WERE WORKING IN A POTTERY FACTORY IN PENNSYLVANIA. THEN TIM DISCOVERED A NEW PROCESS FOR MAKING EARTHENWARE, AND NOW, AT TWENTY-FIVE, WAS A SUCCESSFUL "SELF-MADE" MAN WHO HAS

OWN HIS WIFE.

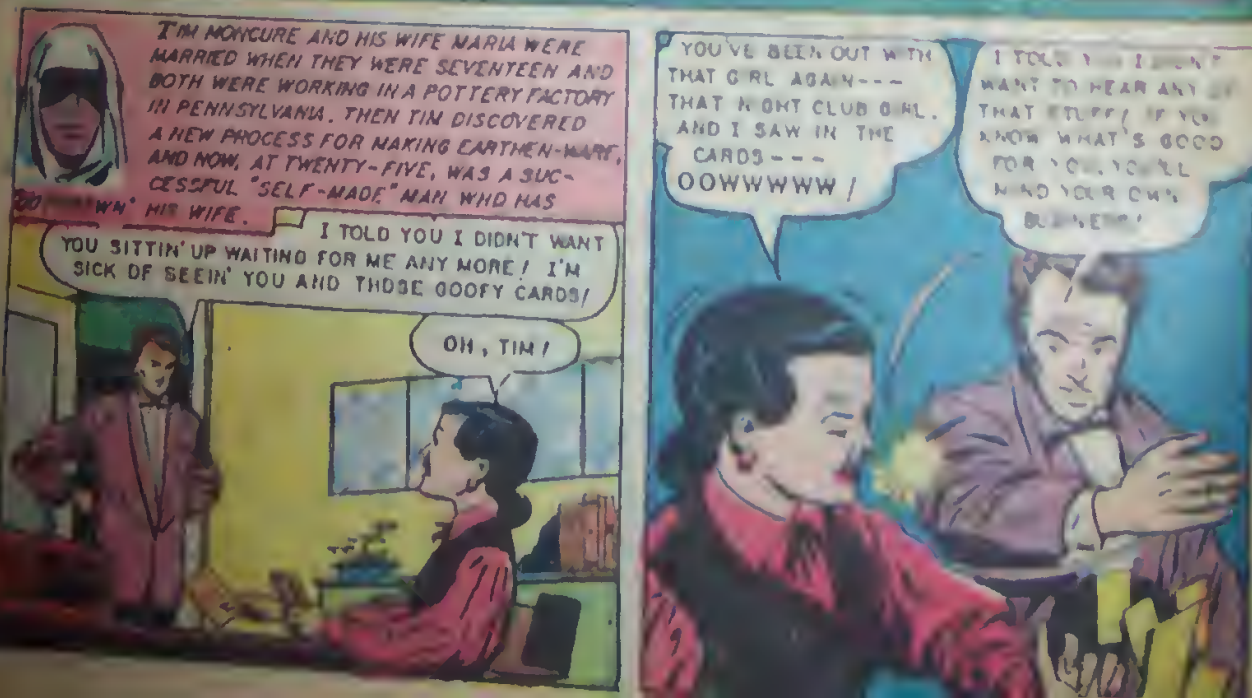
I TOLD YOU I DIDN'T WANT YOU SITTING UP WAITING FOR ME ANY MORE! I'M SICK OF SEEIN' YOU AND THOSE GOOFY CARDS!

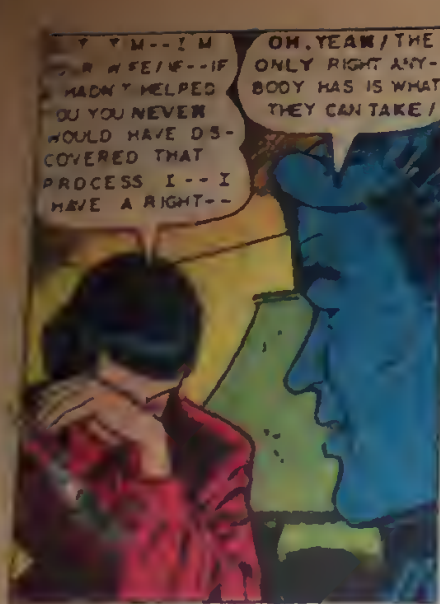
OH, TIM!

YOU'VE BEEN OUT WITH THAT GIRL AGAIN--- THAT NIGHT CLUB GIRL. AND I SAW IN THE CARDS---

OOWWWWW!

I TOLD YOU I DIDN'T WANT TO HEAR ANY OF THAT STUFF! IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU, YOU'LL HAVE YOUR OWN BUSINESS!





TIM--I'M
YOUR WIFE--IF
HADN'T HELPED
YOU YOU NEVER
WOULD HAVE DIS-
COVERED THAT
PROCESS I--I
HAVE A RIGHT--

OH, YEAH / THE
ONLY RIGHT ANY-
BODY HAS IS WHAT
THEY CAN TAKE /



IF YOU'RE SMART, MARIA, YOU'LL
GET OUT. MY LIFE HAS CHANGED.
I'M A BIG-SHOT NOW, AND YOU
JUST DON'T FIT INTO
THE PICTURE

TIM /
PLEASE!



TIM--IN SPITE OF THE WAY
YOU'VE CHANGED--I--I STILL
LOVE YOU! I'VE GOT GYPSY
BLOOD IN ME, TIM--YOU'VE
ALWAYS KNOWN THAT--AND THE
FORTUNE THAT FALLS FROM
THOSE TAROT CARDS OF MY
MOTHER'S NEVER FAILS! THAT'S
WHY I WANT TO
WARN YOU--

BETTER LISTEN
TO HER, TIM



DO YOU THINK
I BELIEVE
THAT STUFF /
A GUY THAT'S
DONE WHAT I'VE
DONE DOESN'T
NEED ANY CARDS
TO TELL HIM
WHAT TO DO /
I'LL MAKE MY
LIFE JUST THE
WAY I WANT
IT TO BE /

TIM / DON'T / IL
BAGATTO-- THE
"MAGICIAN" TAROT
--WAS THERE IN
YOUR FORTUNE--
AND ONLY MY CARD
STOOD BETWEEN
YOU AND EVIL /
IF MY CARD GETS
OUT OF PLACE,
THE TAROT CARDS
SPELLED DES-
TRUCTION FOR
YOU!



I AM THE POWER THAT
PLACES THE CARDS IN THEIR
POSITIONS, TIM. IT WAS DECREED
THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE A CHOICE
BEFORE MY HAND PICKED UP
YOUR CARDS. BE CAREFUL, TIM!

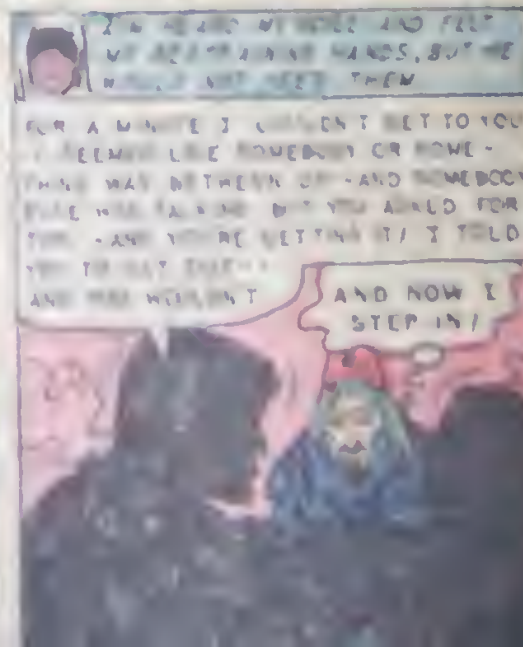
TOO BAD, MARIA. I'M AFRAID
THIS IS GOING TO BE MY GAME!



ARE YOU TRYING TO
SCARE ME, YOU STUPID
LITTLE DOPE / WELL,
THIS IS YOUR LAST
CHANCE / ARE YOU
GOING TO GET OUT OF MY LIFE
OR AM I GOING TO HAVE
TO PUT YOU OUT /

I'M YOUR WIFE,
TIM. WE BELONG
TOGETHER / YOU
NEED ME!

SHE'S RIGHT, TIM
IT IS WRITTEN IN
THE BOOK OF FATE
YOU BELONG
TOGETHER



I'VE HEARD MYSELF AND FELT
MY FATE IN MY HANDS, BUT HE
WOULD NOT LET THEM

FOR A WHILE I COULDN'T GET TO YOU
I FELT LIKE SOMEBODY OR SOME-
BODY WAS BETWEEN US--AND SOMEBODY
WAS TAKING IT FROM YOU ASKED FOR
IT--AND YOU'RE LETTING IT / I TOLD
YOU TO GET THEM
AND THEY WOULDNT

AND NOW I
STEP IN /

I AND I BOTH TRIED TO
E YOU, TIM NOW YOU WILL
SEE HOW THE CARDS OF YOUR
FORTUNE FALL WITH MARIA
OUT OF THE DECK.



THERE I'VE BURIED YOU AND
ALL YOUR CRAZY CARDS WITH
YOU--AND NOBODY'S GOING TO
LOOK FOR YOU HERE IN THIS OLD
CLAY PIT HEY--WHERE'D THAT
CARD COME FROM?



EEEEEEK! I DON'T REMEMBER
SEEING A CARD LIKE THIS IN HER
LOUSY DECK!

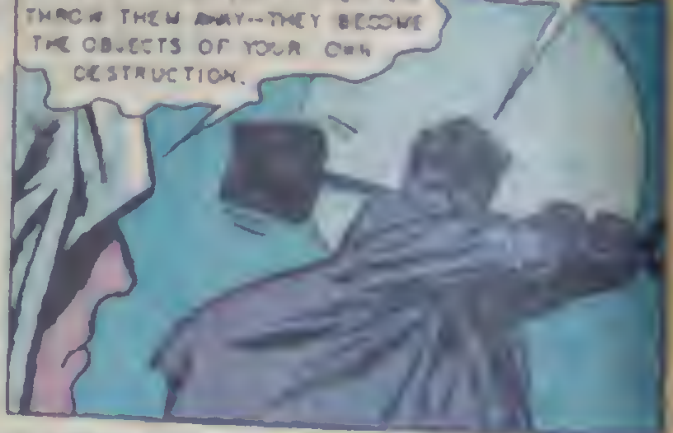


THROUGH THE CENTURIES
MANY PEOPLE HAVE ADDED
THEIR OWN DESIGNS TO
THE TAROT CARDS, TIM
THAT IS THE ONE YOU
DESIGNED



WHO ARE YOU /
WHERE'D YOU
COME FROM? HOW
LONG HAVE BEEN
SHOOPING AROUND
HERE?

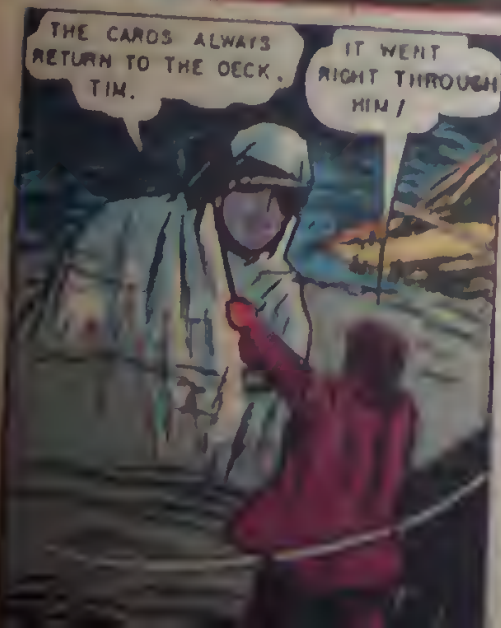
I AM KNOWN BY MANY NAMES--
FATE, FORTUNE, DESTINY & SNEY--
WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?
I AM HE WHO DEALS THE CARDS
YOU ARE TO PLAY IN THE GAME OF
LIFE! AND IF YOU PLAY THOSE
CARDS WRONG, I'M MONSIEUR,
OR HERE TO DESTROY THEM OR
THROW THEM AWAY--THEY BECOME
THE OBJECTS OF YOUR OWN
DESTRUCTION.



THAT SCREWBALL
LIVE WON?
SAVE YOU BUG!
YOU'VE SEEN
TOD MUCH--AND
I'M NOT TAKING
ANY CHANCES!

THE CARDS ALWAYS
RETURN TO THE DECK,
TIM.

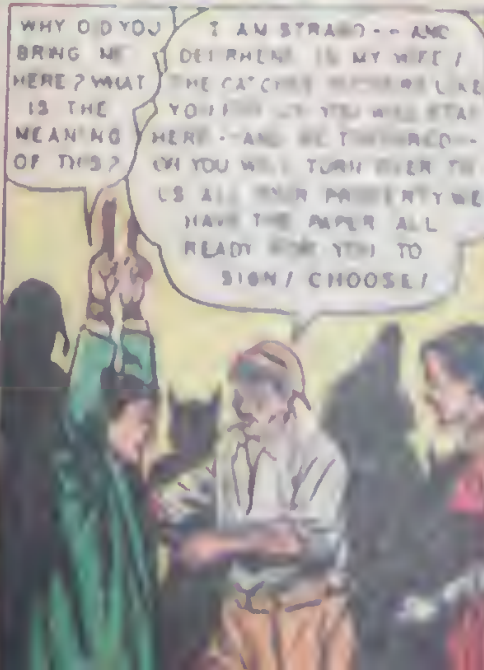
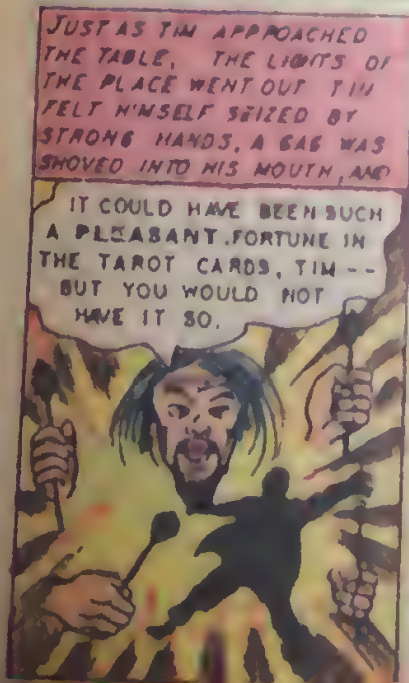
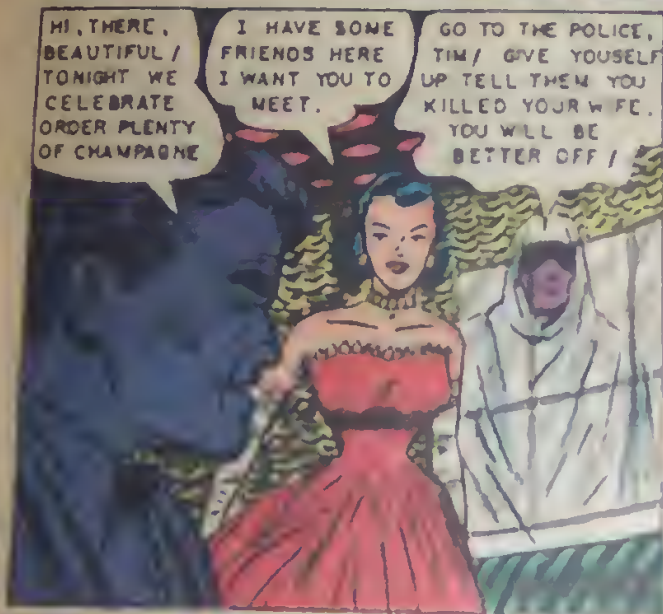
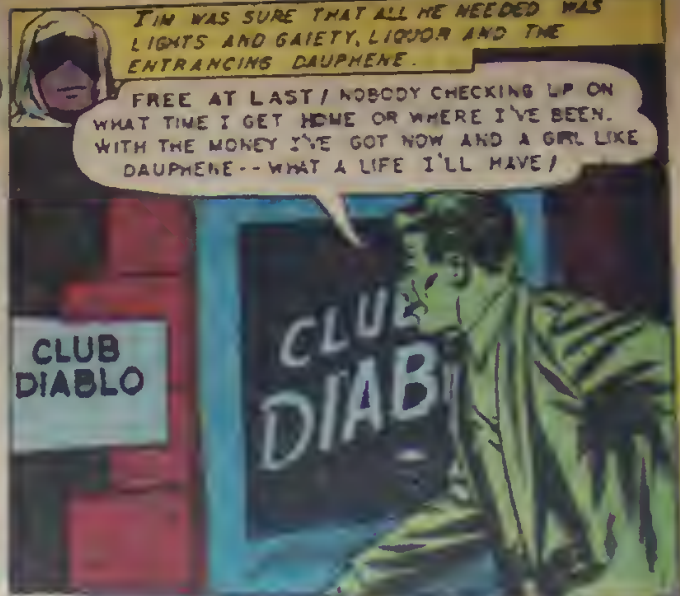
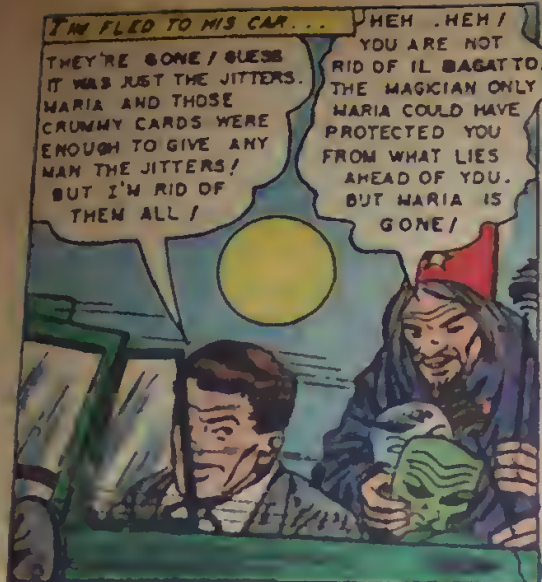
IT WENT
RIGHT THROUGH
HIM!



I--I'M GOING NUTS! BUT IT'S JUST
MY IMAGINATION. I--I'LL BE ALL
RIGHT WHEN I SEE DAVIDENE
AGAIN AND HAVE A DRINK!

YOU CANNOT
ESCAPE THE CARDS
OF YOUR FORTUNE,
FOOL!







DO YOU THINK I'M A FOOL? TURN OVER MY MONEY TO YOU... START OVER AGAIN WITH NOTHING? NEVER!

HE DESIRED YOUR KISSES, DAUPHNE... NOW GIVE HIM THE KISS OF THE WHIP BEFORE I LET HIM TASTE MY KNIFE!

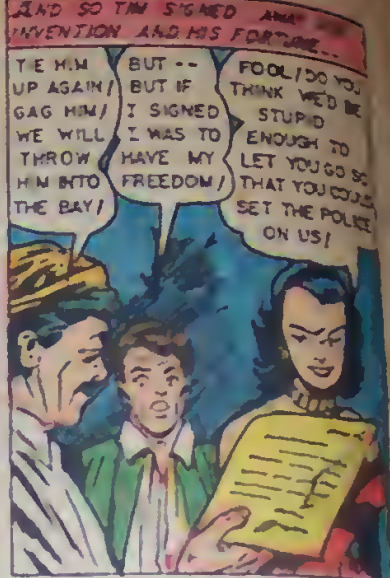
GLADLY, MY HUSBAND!



HA... HA... HA!

EEEE OWWW! NO! NO! I-I'LL SIGN!

THEY ALL DO!



AND SO TIM SIGNED AWAY HIS INVENTION AND HIS FUTURE...

TE HIM UP AGAIN! GAG HIM! WE WILL THROW HIM INTO THE BAY!

BUT -- BUT IF I SIGNED I WAS TO HAVE MY FREEDOM!

FOOL! DO YOU THINK WE'D BE STUPID ENOUGH TO LET YOU GO SO THAT YOU COULD SET THE POLICE ON US!



YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS!



HOW'S THIS!

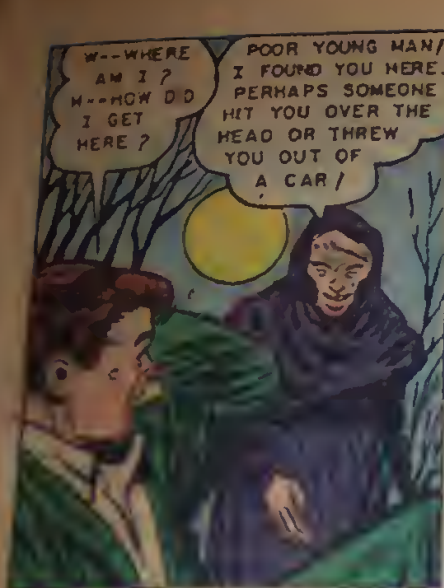


WHAT TRICK OF THE DEVIL IS THIS! EEEEEIIIIII! GET AWAY FROM ME, YOU STINKING ZOMBIES...



THE CARDS ARE FALLING, TIM! YOU CANNOT WIN...

YOU DIDN'T FOOL FATE THAT TIME, DID YOU, TIM. MAYBE NEXT TIME ... HEH... HEH!



W--WHERE
AM I ?
M--HOW DO
I GET
HERE ?

POOR YOUNG MAN/
I FOUND YOU HERE.
PERHAPS SOMEONE
HIT YOU OVER THE
HEAD OR THREW
YOU OUT OF
A CAR /



EVERYTHING--
EVERYTHING IS
CRAZY / LIKE A
NIGHTMARE.
I--DON'T KNOW
WHAT TO DO.

THE CARDS WILL
KNOW / THE
SEVENTY-EIGHT
MYSTIC SYMBOLS
OF THE TAROT
CARDS. WE WILL
SEE, HOW THEY
FALL --- SEE WHAT
THE FUTURE HOLDS!



YOU HAG OF THE
DEVIL ! MOCK ME.
WILL YOU ? THOSE
CARDS BROUGHT ALL
THIS ON ME !

MY CARDS!
MY CARDS!



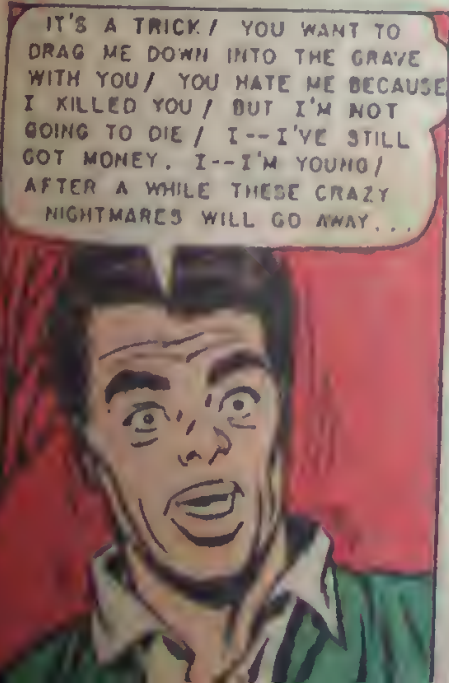
I'LL FIX YOU
AND YOUR CARDS
LIKE I FIXED
MARIA /

I AM MARIA,
TIM...



I---NO---NO---
YOU CANT BE---
MARIA--- I
KILLED HER---

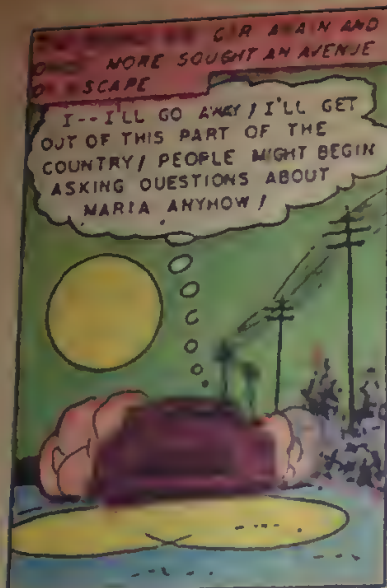
BUT YOU DIDNT KILL MY LOVE,
TIM / UNCE WE WERE HAPPY. WE
WORKED TOGETHER, DREAMED
TOGETHER / I BEGGED FOR THIS
CHANCE TO COME BACK / I
THOUGHT I COULD MAKE
YOU UNDERSTAND /



IT'S A TRICK / YOU WANT TO
DRAG ME DOWN INTO THE GRAVE
WITH YOU / YOU HATE ME BECAUSE
I KILLED YOU / BUT I'M NOT
GOING TO DIE / I--I'VE STILL
GOT MONEY. I--I'M YOUNG /
AFTER A WHILE THESE CRAZY
NIGHTMARES WILL GO AWAY...



MARIA'S LOVE WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO BRIDGE
THE GRAVE. SHE CAME BACK HOPING TO SAVE YOU---
AND ASKING NOTHING FOR HERSELF. SHE THOUGHT
ONCE AGAIN SHE COULD GIVE YOU A GLIMSE OF THE
FUTURE YOU MIGHT CHANGE. BUT STILL YOU FIGHT
AGAINST THE CARDS, STUPID MORTAL. AND NOW I
HOLD THE LAST CARD.



RING OF EVIL

NADA CHENIER WAS A MAID AT CASTLE OSTROG NEAR BRUGES, BELGIUM, WHEN SHE HEARD THE GOSSIP ABOUT FABULOUS JEWELS BURIED WITH THE BODIES OF THE OSTROG ANCESTORS IN THE FAMILY BURIAL VAULT. SHE PERSUADED HER SWEETHEART, ANTON TONNELIER, WHO WAS ONE OF THE CASTLE GARDENERS, TO HELP HER STEAL THE JEWELS. NADA KNEW THAT THE JEWELS WERE SUPPOSED TO CARRY A CURSE, BUT SHE WAS YOUNG, GREEDY AND AMBITIOUS AND SO, NADA CHENIER LAUGHED AT SUPERSTITIONS AND BRAZENLY CHALLENGED FATE---WHOSE LAWS ARE FIXED, AND WHOSE DECISIONS ARE INESCAPABLE!



NADA / EVER SINCE WE BROKE OPEN THE DOOR I'VE HAD A FEELING SOMEONE'S BEEN WATCHING US / THOSE STORIES ABOUT THE JEWELS --MAYBE--

DON'T BE A FOOL, ANTON / IT WOULD BE CRAZY TO TURN BACK NOW / I THINK THAT COFFIN THERE OF OLD PRINCE OSTROG IS THE ONE WITH THE REAL TREASURE /

IT'S OUR BIG CHANCE / WHY SHOULD YOU BE A GARDENER ALL YOUR LIFE ? WHY SHOULD I BE A MAID ? THERE IS A FORTUNE IN JEWELS HERE .. AND THE DEAD CANNOT BENEFIT FROM THEM /

BUT THEY BELONG TO THE OSTROG FAMILY .. AND EVEN THEY PREFER TO LEAVE THEM BURIED BECAUSE OF THE CURSE /

POOH / THERE'S A STUPID STORY ABOUT A RING ONE OF THEIR ANCESTORS STOLE FROM AN EGYPTIAN MUMMY. HOW COULD A LITTLE RING KILL ANYONE ? HURRY, ANTON--WE HAVE NO TIME TO WASTE ON SILLY SUPERSTITION /

STOP, NADA CHENIER AND ANTON TONNELIER, BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!



I—I HEARD A
VOICE / IT SPOKE
OUR NAMES!
LOOK—A
FIGURE—A
GHOST!

NO, ANTON / I AM
NOT A GHOST / I AM
THE VOICE OF ALL
THAT HAS BEEN AND
ALL THAT WILL BE /
I AM FATE / MY WILL
OPERATES IN THE
LIVES OF ALL MEN!



YOU WHO DARE LAUGH AT
SUPERSTITIONS, OR DARE DENY
THE POWER OF EVIL INFLUENCES
TO AFFECT THE LIVES OF THOSE
WHO COME UNDER THEIR
WICKED SPELL, ARE
FOOLISH INDEED!



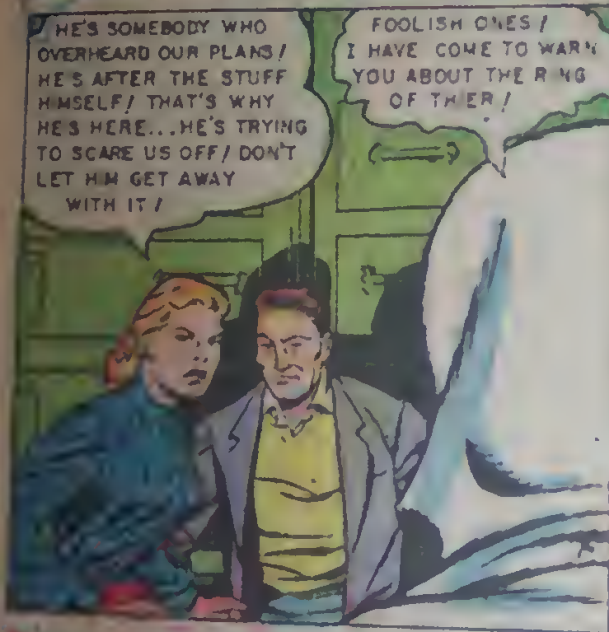
ONLY FATE KNOWS THE SEED
OF THE EVIL TERROR THAT
LURKS IN TOMBS, AND OF THE
OMINOUS CURSES THAT
SHOULD REMAIN BURIED
FOREVER!



IT'S A
TRICK,
ANTON!

HE'S SOMEBODY WHO
OVERHEARD OUR PLANS /
HE'S AFTER THE STUFF
HIMSELF / THAT'S WHY
HE'S HERE... HE'S TRYING
TO SCARE US OFF / DON'T
LET HIM GET AWAY
WITH IT!

FOOLISH ONES /
I HAVE COME TO WARN
YOU ABOUT THE RING
OF THIER!



SEE / HE KNOWS ABOUT THE RING / HE KNOWS
IT'S WORTH A FORTUNE / SHACK HIM WITH THE
PICKAX, ANTON, BEFORE HE PULLS A GUN ON
US AND GETS AWAY WITH EVERYTHING!

I GUESS YOU'RE
RIGHT, NADA / THE
DIRTY CROOK!



THE RING OF THIER WAS FASHIONED BY AN EVIL
POWER WHEN THE EARTH WAS YOUNG / SUCH THINGS
SHOULD NOT BELONG TO MORTALS / THOSE WHO
HAVE DEFIED MY DECREE THAT ITS EVIL SHOULD
REMAIN BURIED AND IMPOTENT HAVE ALWAYS
REGRETTED THEIR FOOLHARDINESS!



WHA? IT WENT
RIGHT THROUGH
ME / I—I DON'T
UNDERSTAND!

THERE IS MUCH YOU DO
NOT UNDERSTAND BUT HEED
THIS WARNING / FATE HAS
MARKED FOR DESTRUCTION ALL
THOSE WHO POSSESS THE RING
OF THIER / THOSE WHOSE BONES
NOT HERE COULD TELL YOU
THIS!





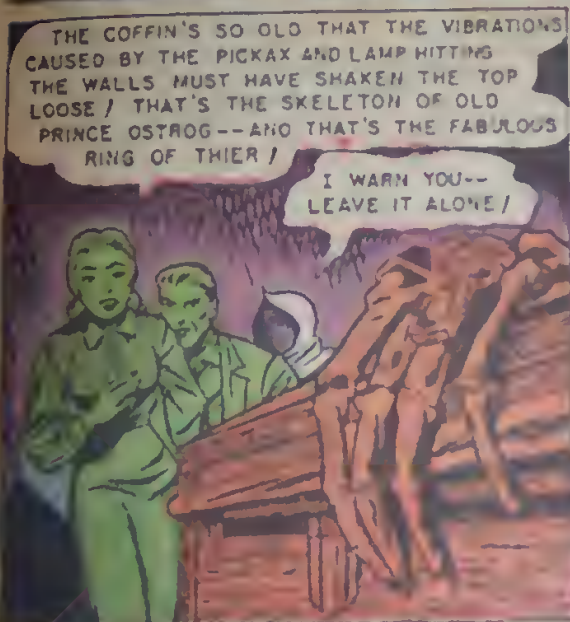
HE--HE ISN'T REAL.
NADA / HE'S SOMETHING
OUT OF THIS WORLD /
I--I'M AFRAID /

YOU COWARDLY
FOOL / NO ONE
CAN SCARE ME /
I'LL SHOW HIM /



W--WHERE IS HE?
HE--HE'S GONE / HE
MUST HAVE DODGED
MY LANTERN /

NO! / NO! / THE
LANTERN WENT RIGHT
THROUGH HIM, JUST AS
MY PICKAX DID / AND NOW
WE HAVEN'T ANY LIGHT--
EXCEPT--NADA /--LOOK /
THAT COFFIN / IT'S
GLOWING /



THE COFFIN'S SO OLD THAT THE VIBRATIONS
CAUSED BY THE PICKAX AND LAMP HITTING
THE WALLS MUST HAVE SHAKEN THE TOP
LOOSE / THAT'S THE SKELETON OF OLD
PRINCE OSTROG--AND THAT'S THE FABULOUS
RING OF THIER /

I WARN YOU--
LEAVE IT ALONE /



THEY ARE BOTH TOO
ENTRANCED TO HEAR MY
VOICE / STUPID MORTALS /
YOU ARE SEALING YOUR
OWN DOOM--AND YOU
KNOW NOT WHAT HORRORS
AWAIT YOU /

I'VE NEVER SEEN
ANYTHING LIKE IT /
KIND OF TAKES
YOUR BREATH AWAY /
AND CLOSED UP
THERE WITH A LOT
OF CRUMBLING
BONES--UGH /

THAT'S WHAT I TOLD YOU /
WHY SHOULD THE DEAD HAVE
ALL THIS WHEN WE CAN
LIVE LIKE ROYALTY ON WHAT
IT WILL BRING US / GRAB
ALL YOU CAN--STUFF YOUR
POCKETS--AND THEN WE'LL
GET OUT OF HERE QUICK /



NADA / LOOK / C--CRAALN
THINGS--COMING OUT OF
THE BONES /



CLOSE THE COFFIN
QUICKLY / WHAT THOSE
HORRIBLE THINGS IN /



NADA / I--
I--
I--



ANTON!
OH H H H H H H H H H!



OH H H H H .. WHAT SHALL I DO? I CAN'T OPEN IT
AGAIN AND SEE THOSE HORRIBLE THINGS!
NOT EVEN FOR ANTON... OR... OR
THE JEWELS!

'N N N A A D D D A A..
N A D D D A A A A ..

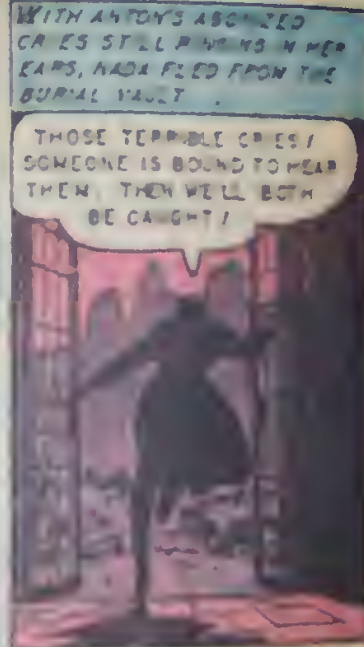


I CAN'T STAND HEARING ANTON'S
CRY OF AGONY... AND I CAN'T HELP
HIM... THOSE HORRIBLE THINGS
MIGHT GET ME! I-I'M GETTING
OUT OF HERE. OH... THE RING... IT
FELL FROM THE SKELETON'S
HAND!



OH, WONDERFUL... WONDERFUL
I'VE GOT THIS MUCH
ANYHOW!

N N N A A D D D A
H E L L L L P P P P P



WITH ANTON'S AGONY
CRIES STILL RINGING IN HER
EARS, NADA FLED FROM THE
BURIAL VAULT.

THOSE TERRIBLE CRIES!
SOMEONE IS BOUND TO HEAR
THEM. THEN WE'LL BOTH
BE CAUGHT!



ANTON WAS SWEET, BUT HE
WAS PRETTY MUCH OF A FOOL
SOMETIMES! I'VE GOT THE
RING NOW, AND THERE ARE
PLENTY OF PEOPLE WHO'LL
PAY ALL KINDS OF MONEY
FOR IT AND KEEP THEIR
MOUTHS SHUT! I'LL
BE ABLE TO HAVE THE
THINGS I'VE ALWAYS
WANTED!



YOU AGAIN! IF
YOU THINK YOU
CAN TAKE THIS
RING FROM ME,
YOU'RE CRAZY!
I WON'T GIVE
IT UP!

THE RING WAS MORE
IMPORTANT TO YOU THAN THE
MAN YOU PROFESSED TO LOVE!
YOU MIGHT HAVE SAVED HIM AND
SAVED YOURSELF, BUT YOU LEFT
HIM TO HIS DOOM AND NOW YOU
ARE HEADED TOWARD YOUR
OWN!



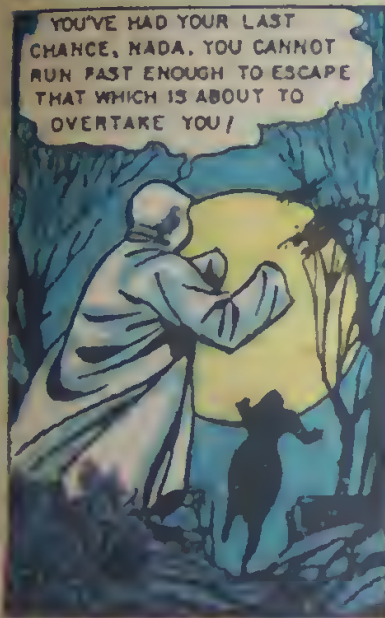
IT IS STILL NOT TOO LATE, NADA / RUN TO THE CASTLE AND GET HELP FOR ANTON. THEN RETURN THE RING TO THE COFFIN OF PRINCE OSTROG /

YOU FOOL / DO YOU THINK I'M STUPID ENOUGH TO PLAY INTO YOUR HANDS LIKE THAT?



YOU'D LOVE TO HAVE ME GIVE UP THE RING SO YOU COULD GET IT, AND THEN TRAP ME IN THERE / IF I GOT HELP FOR ANTON, THEY'D KNOW WE TRIED TO ROB THE TOMB / I'M NOT THAT DUMB / IT'S ANTON'S TOUGH LUCK THAT HE SLIPPED LIKE A CLUMSY OX /

IT WAS ANTON'S BAD LUCK TO LINK HIS DESTINY WITH YOURS, NADA /



YOU'VE HAD YOUR LAST CHANCE, NADA. YOU CANNOT RUN FAST ENOUGH TO ESCAPE THAT WHICH IS ABOUT TO OVERTAKE YOU /



THAT NIGHT, NADA HID IN A DESERTED BARN SHE COULD HARDLY WAIT UNTIL THE FIRST LIGHT OF DAWN TO LOOK AT HER TREASURE

OH, IT'S GORGEOUS / I'LL GET TO PAR'S SOMEHOW AND SELL IT THERE. THEN I'LL REALLY BEGIN TO LIVE.



THERE'S WRITING INSIDE HERE IT SAYS, THIER-- CAPUT MORTIUM----



EEEEKKKKKK! WHAT... WHAT'S THIS /

I AM THIER / WHOEVER POSSESSES THE RING, POSSESSES ME /



WHATEVER YOU COMMAND, I SHALL DO / ASK .. AND I SHALL BRING YOU YOUR HEART'S DESIRES /

I-I DON'T BELIEVE IT / IT'S CRAZY /



WHY NOT
TRY ME, AND
FIND OUT.

ALL RIGHT--
I WILL /

YOU WERE
WARNED, HADA /
BUT YOU WOULD
NOT LISTEN /

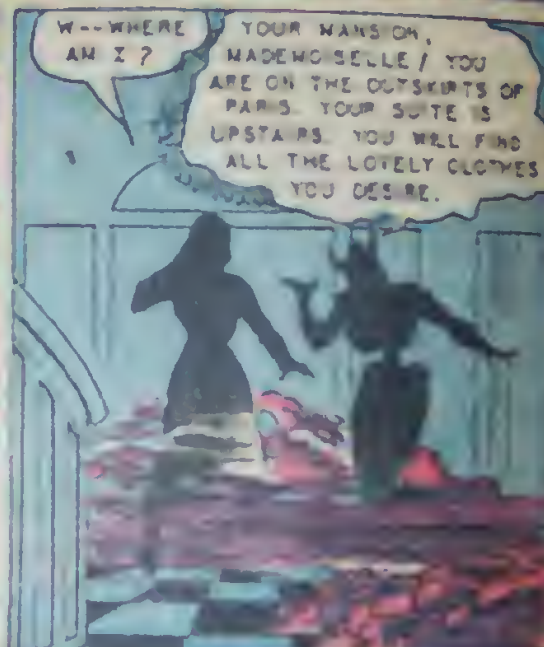


I WANT TO BE IN PARIS-- IN A
BEAUTIFUL MANSION WITH WONDERFUL
CLOTHES AND LUXURIOUS SURROUNDINGS
AND EVERYTHING I DESIRE /

OF COURSE...
IT SHALL BE
DONE /



AAIIIEE!
W--WHAT'S
HAPPENING?

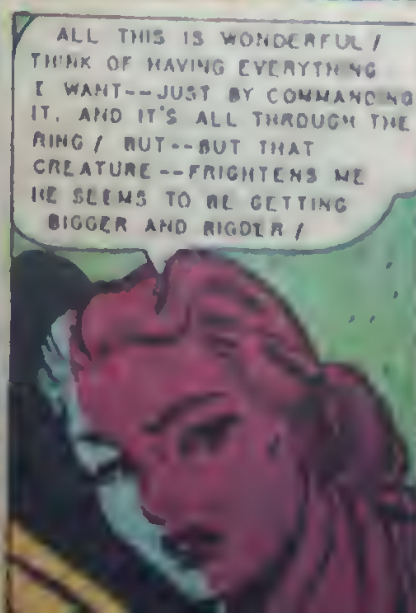


W--WHERE
AM I?

YOUR MANSION,
MADEMOISELLE / YOU
ARE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF
PARIS. YOUR SUITE IS
UPSTAIRS. YOU WILL FIND
ALL THE LOVELY CLOTHES
YOU DESIRE.



I--I'LL LOOK AT THE
HOUSE BY MYSELF. O--GO
AWAY. YOU--YOU MAKE ME
NERVOUS. I--I'LL CALL
YOU IF I WANT YOU /



ALL THIS IS WONDERFUL /
THINK OF HAVING EVERYTHING
I WANT--JUST BY COMMANDING
IT, AND IT'S ALL THROUGH THE
RING / BUT--BUT THAT
CREATURE--FRIGHTENS ME
HE SEEMS TO BE GETTING
BIGGER AND BIGGER /



WHEN HADA SAW HER
BEAUTIFUL MANSION AND THE
HIGHT PILE OF CLOTHES,
HER FEARS MELTED AWAY
FOR A MOMENT.

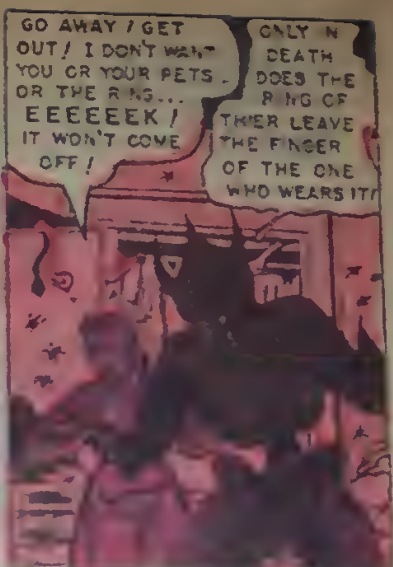
OH, LOVELY, LOVELY / I'VE
DREAMED OF CLOTHES LIKE
THIS--AND NOW THAT I'VE
GOT MY HANDS ON THEM, I'LL
NEVER GIVE THEM UP /



CHHHH... WHAT'S THIS!
THE SAME NASTY CREATURES
THAT WERE IN THE COFFIN!



THEY ARE MY PETS,
MADAMOISELLE. WHOEVER
OWNS THE RING OF THIER
AND COMMANDS ME, MUST
ALSO ACCEPT MY PETS!



GO AWAY / GET
OUT! I DON'T WANT
YOU OR YOUR PETS...
OR THE RING...
EEEEEEK!
IT WON'T COME
OFF!

ONLY IN
DEATH
DOES THE
RING OF
THIER LEAVE
THE FINGER
OF THE ONE
WHO WEARS IT!



I--I CAN'T GET AWAY FROM THEM!
THEY'RE EVERYWHERE! IF
ONLY ANTON WAS HERE
TO HELP ME!

ANTON IS
DEAD, NADA!
YOU LEFT HIM TO
DIE AS HORRIBLY
AS YOU MUST
DIE!



I--I CAN'T STAND
THIS! THESE HORRIBLE
THINGS! I WOULD RATHER
DIE, TOO! I--I SHAKE
THEM OFF--BUT MORE
COME---

IT IS THE CURSE
OF THE RING,
NADA. THERE
WILL BRING YOU
ALL THE THINGS
YOU WANT--BUT IT
CANNOT REMOVE THE
EVIL THAT YOU DO NOT
WANT. IF YOU ACCEPT
ONE THING, YOU MUST
ACCEPT BOTH. YOU
MADE THE CHOICE!

UNABLE TO REMOVE THE
RING, NADA PUSHED OUT
OF THE HOUSE AND RAN
FRANTICALLY ALONG THE
PARIS STREETS TOWARD
THE SEINE.

HORRIFIED ONLOOKERS SAW THE
FIGURE OF A GIRL PLUNGE INTO
THE RIVER--AND MANY WONDERED
AT THE STRANGE GREEN STREAK
THAT SEEMED TO GO DOWN
BESIDE HER.

NADA NEVER LEARNED THAT
NO ONE TOUCHED THE HAND OF
FATE. SHE WAS AT REST NOW--
AND THE RING OF THIER,
SLIPPING OFF OF HER FINGER
IN THE WATER, NOW LAY AT
THE BOTTOM OF THE RIVER.
LET ANYONE WHO WENT TO
FIND IT REVEAL THE CURSE
OF THE RING, WHO WISHED
AT THE STORY OF THE
EVIL POWER!



ALFEEEE!
IT--IT'S STILL
FOLLOWING ME!



A Hand of FATE Mystery

44 15

MANY STRANGE TALES OF VODOO MAGIC HAVE COME FROM THE ISLAND OF HAITI. THE WILDEST OF THESE STORIES TOOK PLACE IN 1932 WHEN TWO YOUNG AMERICAN TOURISTS, LED BY A NATIVE GUIDE, VENTURED INTO THE JUNGLES ONE NIGHT TO WITNESS A FORBIDDEN ZOMBIE SEANCE. . .

THERE IS A LEGEND THAT IF AN OUTSIDER WATCHES THESE FORBIDDEN RITES, HE, TOO, WILL BECOME ONE OF THE "LIVING DEAD"!

NONSENSE! THAT IS JUST SUPERSTITION. WE'VE COME A LONG WAY TO SEE THIS SPECTACLE.



SOON THE THREE MEN WERE HIDDEN ON THE OUTSIDE OF A JUNGLE CLEARING.

LOOK AT THOSE POOR DEVILS! THEY LOOK DEAD TO ME!

THEY ARE MEN WITHOUT SOULS! WE MUST LEAVE BEFORE THE RITES BEGIN!



THEY HURRIED AWAY FROM THE CLEARING, BUT ONE MAN STAYED BEHIND. . .

WHERE IS YOUR FRIEND? IF HE REMAINS THERE, HE IS IN DANGER!

I'M GOING BACK FOR HIM!



BUT THEY WERE TOO LATE! THE MAN WAS ALREADY DRAGGED INTO THE RAMPS OF THE VODOO RITUAL.

GOOD HEAVENS! THEY'VE GOT HIM!

THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN DO NOW!



THEY WAITED UNTIL THE AWESOME RITUALS WERE OVER, AND THEN WENT TO THE RESCUE OF THEIR UNFORTUNATE COMPANION.

FRED, WAKE UP! WE'RE YOUR FRIENDS! WAKE UP!

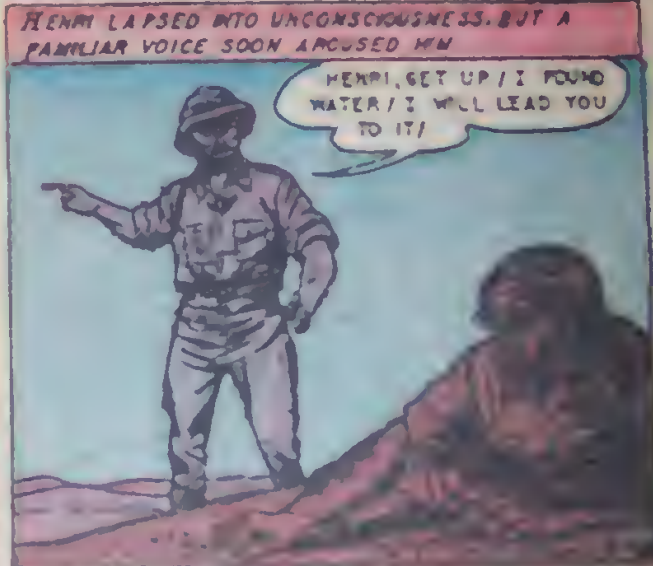
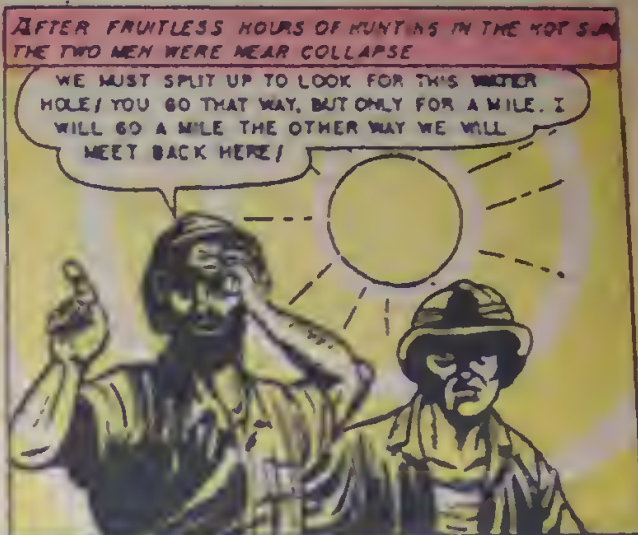
WE CANNOT HELP HIM NOW. HE IS NOT IN OUR WORLD. HE IS A ZOMBIE. . .!



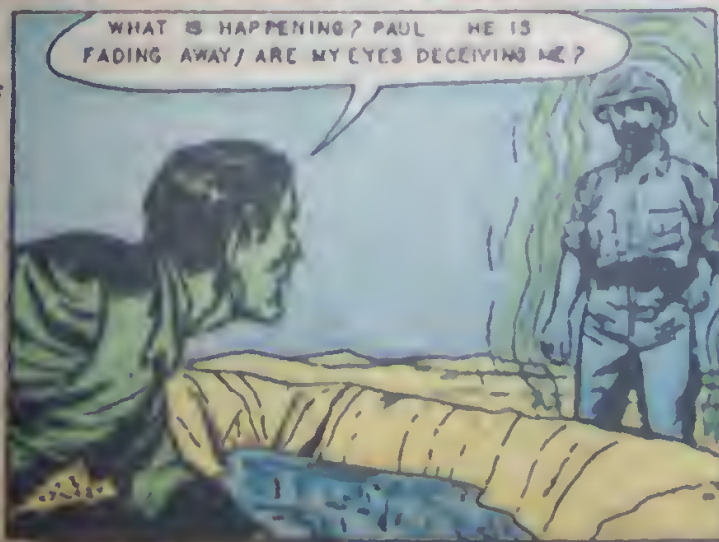
THE "DEAD" MAN WAS TAKEN BACK TO HIS HOME AND PUT UNDER THE BEST OF MEDICAL CARE, BUT NOTHING COULD BRING HIM BACK TO REALITY. TO THIS DAY THE MAN REMAINS A LIVING "DEAD" MAN. THE STRANGE CURSE OF THE VODOO HAD WORKED ON THE YOUNG AMERICAN. ANOTHER UNEXPLAINED INCIDENT IN THE RECORDED FILES OF THE STRANGE AND SUPERNATURAL.

A Land of FATE Mystery

THE BURNING SANDS OF THE SAHARA DESERT HAVE TAKEN MANY LIVES IN ITS LONG HISTORY. THE STORY OF ONE WHO ESCAPED DEATH AT THE HANDS OF THE MERCLESS WASTELAND IS AN ALMOST UNBELIEVABLE ONE. IN 1884, TWO FRENCH ARCHAEOLOGISTS LOST THEIR WAY ON THE DESERT. . .



HENRI FOLLOWED HIS FRIEND ACROSS THE BURNING SANDS. ONLY THE STEADY ENCOURAGEMENT OF HIS COMRADE'S VOICE KEPT HIM ALIVE DURING THE AGONIZING TREK. SOON THEY REACHED WATER. AS HE STARTED TO DRINK...



HENRI COLLAPSED INTO A HEAVY SLEEP A FEW HOURS LATER A CARIAN STOPPED AT THE WATER HOLE AND HENRI WAS RESCUED. HE INSISTED THAT THEY LOOK FOR HIS FRIEND, AND AFTER HOURS OF SEARCHING THEY FOUND HIM MILES FROM THE WATER HOLE, DEAD / HENRI WAS BOWLEDERED NOW COULD A DEAD MAN HAVE LED HIM TO WATER? TO HIS DYING DAY HE COULD NOT FATHOM THE STRANGE OCCURRENCE OF A SPIRIT COMING FROM THE BEYOND TO SAVE HIS LIFE ANOTHER WEIRD TALE IN THE ANNALS OF THE SUPERNATURAL

BRIDE OF THE DEVIL!

[illegible]

"Ah!" Kater leaped. And the creature and
 alligator took one plunge into the pond. "I'll
 jump in myself!" Came along in that year 1880
 and John Turner came out here in the fu-
 ture, too."

The two basins of Study Sites 9 and 10 contained the greatest assemblages of mollusks, including several signs of recent time, etched with flint at the bottom. And there were no diatoms present. There is the right kind of soil for the two young young adults, I say.

[illegible]

"That Quaker was wrong and wronging. She was also the most beautiful girl in the small village of Walnut. I remember a Harbinger, Paul Deane, could not see her come at night, and in the comfort of her mother's house. 'But you can't see the natural thing! You can't see the very possible thing, the thing that is!' He said I did not want to. Paul, I told her that. 'Is not you easily? You know I've married that young man who was a child, but I want new things, new clothes, jewelry—wealth!'

[illegible]

"But oh, so beautiful, young man! First, I asked around to see what kind of a girl was going to be made from this fine one. And she and I have decided on many things, the kind of old wedding. The money for my paper - a young woman's with 'th' th' th'. That night was the night in Paul's den. Without question, said for time. And walked off, leaving him to give himself a little, then - the old girl will be the - and she has said she will be more."

[illegible]

Three years had passed in the Village of Bond, and India was now the Emperor's daughter. Her name being almost everywhere known—especially on the "old Indians" the family was being sought after, as usually is the case, and the old friend who had once found her gone, was again coming back, young-looking, "young, but," he would say, "I do wish I had married her long ago, my dear." After parting at the principal door, the lady's presence was not felt. What had gone wrong? Paul was excited and happy with his new wife. The villagers could see the old lady's head at last, but now with her heavy shawl, it was not visible. And now, too, all business with the old Council had ceased, a new gathering, it was said, to write words for him, and India was welcome. "This was not too much to wish for," he had thought, "but this! Day after day she would watch her husband being helped down the steps to his home by the servants.

"I'm going, riding my dog. Don't wait up for me!" Riding! She goes alone for God's sake.

DOOM

Lucky Devil

GET RID OF SPIKE, LUCKY, AND WE CAN HEAD WEST TOGETHER. MAYBE WE CAN SET UP OUR OWN GAMBLING JOINT IN NEVADA AND GET INTO THE BIG MONEY.

NOW YOU'RE TALKING, CORA! WE'LL BLOW TOWN AT MIDNIGHT. THEN THERE WON'T BE ANY SPIKE TO STOP YOU!



HE HAD CALLED HIM "LUCKY" BECAUSE OF HIS ABILITY TO GET OUT OF TROUBLE. LUCKY HADN'T ANSWERED IN A MOMENT. IT WAS TOO EARLY TO MAKE A LIST OF MURDER IN HIS GAMBLING, THE VERY FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT GAME. LUCKY HADN'T BEEN THE ONLY ONE TO GET AFTER HIM. BUT THE ALL-STAR TEAM OF THE BRASSERIE IN NEW YORK. NO TIME TO WASTE! HURRY! THERE'S A DEADLINE AND A DEADLINE IS UNAVOIDABLE!

LATER, AS LUCKY LAY IN WAIT FOR THE UNSUSPECTING SPIKE...

YOU HAVE MUCH TO ANSWER FOR ALREADY, LUCKY. DO NOT ADD MURDER TO THE LIST!

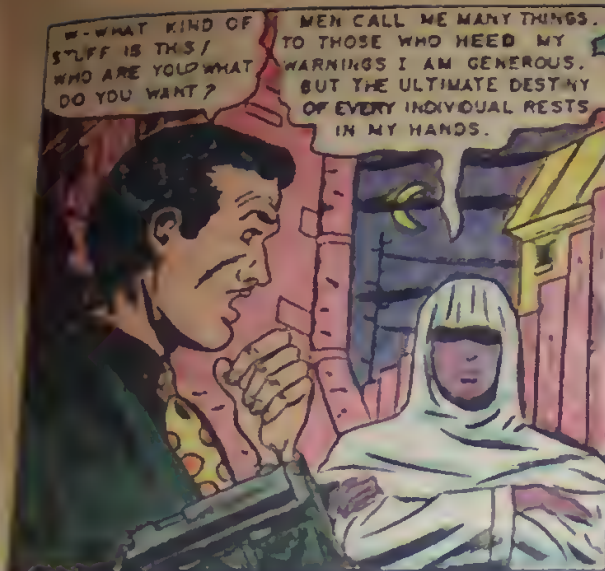
HEY! WHAT THE ?



WHAT KIND OF A NUT ARE YOU, SNEAKING AROUND DRAPED IN A SHEET! AND HOW DO YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT MY BUSINESS? I'VE GOT A WAY OF HANDLING WISE GUYS - EEEKKKK! THERE'S NOTHING THERE!

YOU'RE MISTAKEN, LUCKY. YOU CAN NEVER ESCAPE ME NOR DESTROY ME!





W-WHAT KIND OF STUFF IS THIS / WHO ARE YOU / WHAT DO YOU WANT ?

MEN CALL ME MANY THINGS. TO THOSE WHO HEED MY WARNINGS I AM GENEROUS. BUT THE ULTIMATE DESTINY OF EVERY INDIVIDUAL RESTS IN MY HANDS.



I HAVE SPOKEN TO YOU BEFORE-- BUT YOU REFUSED TO HEAR MY VOICE. NOW I HAVE COME TO WARN YOU THAT A FEARFUL PENALTY AWAITS THOSE WHO BELIEVE THEY MAY GO THROUGH LIFE AND ESCAPE AN UNPAID ATONEMENT.

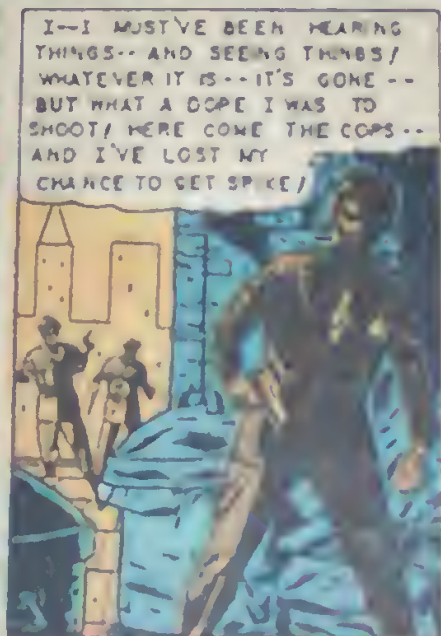
YOU'RE SCREWY. I MUST HAVE SLIPPED WHEN I TRIED TO SLUG YOU-- BUT THIS WILL FIX YOU!



I TOLD YOU, FOOLISH MORTAL, YOU CAN NEITHER ESCAPE ME NOR DESTROY ME /

BAM

BAM



I--I MUST'VE BEEN HEARING THINGS-- AND SEEING THINGS / WHATEVER IT IS-- IT'S GONE -- BUT WHAT A DOPE I WAS TO SHOOT / HERE COME THE COPS -- AND I'VE LOST MY CHANCE TO GET SPICE /



WHAT A BREAK / THE LUMB COPS RAN IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION. THE DEVIL IS STILL LOOKING OUT FOR ME / I'VE STILL GOT MY LUCK /



HEH /... HEH /... SO YOU REALLY THINK MY POWER IN YOUR LIFE IS LUCKY, STUPID ONE? THERE HAVE BEEN MANY SUCH-- WHO LEARN THE TRUTH TOO LATE /



IT WAS LUCKY THAT THE LUMB COULD NOT HEAR THE VOICE OF THE EVIL PART OF MY MIND AS MY GUN.

THEY DON'T CALL ME LUCKY FOR NOTHING / WHY DID I SHOOT THE COPS-- BUT I RAN INTO SPAT AFTER ALL /

YOU DON'T OBTAIN THE PRIZE, LUCKY. I GAVE YOU ONE MORE CHANCE TO SAVE YOURSELF NOW YOU HAVE DEFIED FATE FOR THE LAST TIME



THAT
AND
THEY'LL DEAD
E ON

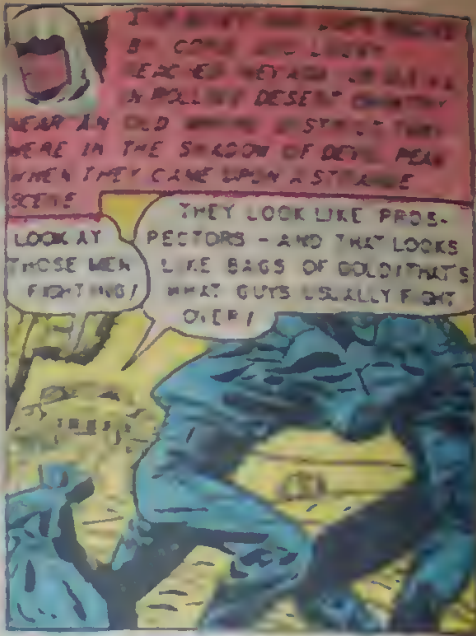
AGHHHH H!



...AND LATER, HE
AND COPA STARTED
ON THEIR JOURNEY
WESTWARD

YOU'RE THE
SMARTEST, MOST
WONDERFUL
GUY IN THE
WORLD,
LUCKY.

YOU AN
KID, HONEY!
NOTHING CAN
BREAK MY LUCK
STRING ALONG
WITH ME AND
YOU'LL BE WEARING
DIAMONDS



I
BY COMING LUCKY
LEAGUE REYASH
A POLLUTED DESERT
NEAR AN OLD
WERE IN THE SHADOW OF DEATH
WHEN THEY CAME UPON A STAGNANT
SCENE

THEY LOOK LIKE PROS-
PECTORS - AND THEY LOOKS
LIKE BAGS OF GOLD! THAT'S
WHAT GUYS USUALLY FIGHT
OVER!



THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW
WE'RE HERE! THIS IS
ANOTHER ONE OF MY
LUCKY BREAKS, BABY
I THINK WE'VE STRUCK
IT RICH!

DON'T LET THE OLD
COAT GET THE DRAW ON
YOU, HONEY! GET HIM
BEFORE HE KNOWS
WHAT'S COOKING!



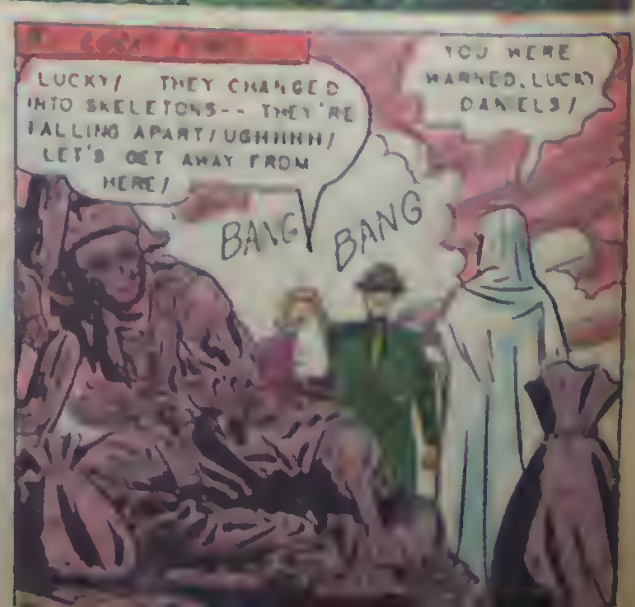
YOUR OWN STUBBORN WILL AND GREED HAVE
BECOME THE INSTRUMENT OF YOUR DESTRUCTION
BECAUSE YOU HAVE PITTED THEM AGAINST THE
WILL OF FATE TURN BACK IF YOU WOULD AVOID
EVEN GREATER PUNISHMENT
THAN YOU HAVE ALREADY
PLED UP FOR
YOURSELF!

YOU AGAIN!
WHERE'D YOU COME
FROM?



I DIDN'T LET YOU STOP ME BEFORE-- AND I'M
NOT LETTING YOU STOP ME NOW! THERE'S GOLD
IN THOSE BAGS AND IT'S GOING TO BE MINE! SO
THIS IS FOR YOU AND THEM BOTH--

BANG
BANG



LUCKY! THEY CHANGED
INTO SKELETONS-- THEY'RE
FALLING APART! UGH! UGH!
LET'S GET AWAY FROM
HERE!

YOU WERE
WARNED, LUCKY
DANIELS!

BANG
BANG

I DON'T KNOW
IT'S BEHIND
THIS--BUT THE
GOLD IS STILL
HERE AND IT'S
REAL ALL RIGHT!
I'M NOT WORRYING
ABOUT THE REST!

NO, LUCKY--
LET IT ALONE!
THERE'S SOME-
THING FUNNY ABOUT
ALL THIS/ I'M
FRIGHTENED!

THESE WERE
MEN A MUTE
AGO--BUT NOW
THEY'RE CRUM-
BLING BONES!
AND-- AND THAT
FUNNY LOOKING
GUY THAT TRIED
TO STOP YOU JUST
DISAPPEARED!

IT TAKES MORE
THAN BONES TO
SCARE LUCKY
DANIELS AWAY
FROM GOLD/ THERE
MUST BE A
MILLION BUCKS
WORTH HERE /
FROM NOW ON
WE'RE ON EASY
STREET!

HEY, LOOK--THIS OLD MAP
WAS IN THE BAG--AND THERE
IS SOMETHING WRITTEN ON IT
IT SAYS, "SKIRT THE DRY RIVER
BED, OLD ROAD LEADS TO
DEVIL'S CAMP IN SHADOW OF
DEVIL MOUNTAIN. OLD MINE
PRODUCES GOLD, SILVER,
PLATINUM AND VANADIUM."

SO THERE'S MORE WHERE THIS CAME FROM/
THAT'S FOR US/ HELP ME DUMP OUR LOOT IN
THE CAR, BABY, AND
WE'LL TAKE A LOOK
AT DEVIL'S CAMP.
THAT'S OEVIL
MOUNTAIN AHEAD.

I'M NOT TOUCHING THAT
STUFF, LUCKY. THERE'S
SOMETHING CREEPY ABOUT
THIS WHOLE SETUP!

SINCE WHEN DID YOU GET
SO FUSSY/ WITH A FORTUNE
LIKE THIS I CAN GET ANY
DAME I WANT. AND I'VE
NOT ME TO WASTE COAXING
YOU TO BE
REASONABLE!

LUCKY
PLEASE

OW!!

YOUR
SCUMPS
CAME TOO
LATE, CORA
YOUR DOOM WAS
SEALED WHEN
YOU CHOSE THE
LIFE YOU DID--
AND A MAN
LIKE LUCKY
CAN ELS!

THE BLOW FROM THE HEAVY BAG OF
GOLD KILLED CORA INSTANTLY. LEAVING
HER BODY WHERE IT FELL, LUCKY LOADED
HIS GOLD AND DROVE OFF, EAGERLY
SEEKING MORE FORTUNE

SHE ASKED FOR IT-- AND SHE GOT IT/ SHE
DIDN'T KNOW WHEN SHE WAS LUCKY/ WHY, WITH
ALL MY LUCK, I'LL BET
I'VE FOUND THE WAY TO
A LOST MINE THAT WILL
MAKE ME THE RICHEST
GUY IN THE WORLD!

THE DEVIL IS
WAITING FOR YOU,
LUCKY.

LUCKY FOLLOWED THE DIRECTIONS ON
THE OLD MAP AND REACHED DEVIL'S
CAMP.

AN OLD DEPARTED GHOST
TOWN/ NOW ALL I HAVE TO
DO IS FIND THE MINE!

AS LUCKY PULLED UP IN FRONT OF THE OLD SALOON HE REALIZED THE TOWN WAS NOT AS DESERTED AS HE HAD THOUGHT

EEEEKKKK! WHAT KIND OF CREEPS ARE THESE!

WELCOME TO DEVIL'S CAMP. LUCKY. NICE OF YOU TO BRING BACK OUR GOLD.

YOUR GOLD! HOW DO YOU GET THAT WAY! AND -- AND NOW DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THE GOLD ANYWAY -- AND HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?

HEH HEH... WE ALWAYS KNOW WHEN ANOTHER ONE ENTERS OUR RANKS, LUCKY. IT'S THE GOLD -- IT ALWAYS COMES BACK! IT BELONGS HERE!

DUTCH NICK AND AN INDIAN PETE MURDERED EVERYONE IN DEVIL'S CAMP AND ESCAPED WITH THE GOLD THEY FOUND! BUT THE GOLD ALWAYS RETURNS

AIEEE I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!

OH, NO LUCKY! YOU MUST COME IN AND HAVE A DRINK -- AND MEET THE OWNER OF THE MINE. THE GOLD REALLY BELONGS TO HIM

STAY AWAY FROM ME! ... LET ME GO! UHHH ...

THERE'S TOO MANY OF THEM -- ARGHHH!

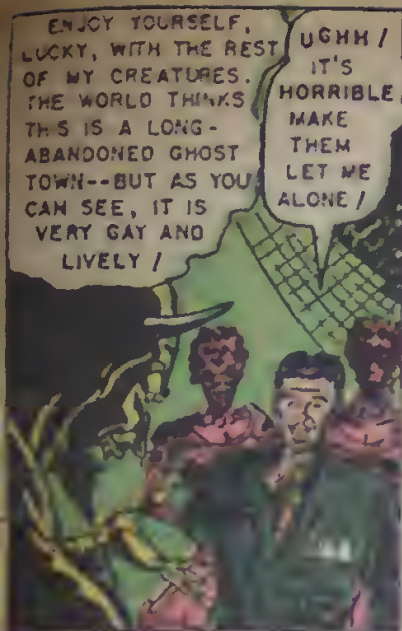
PERHAPS NOW YOU WILL BEGIN TO REALIZE THAT YOUR LUCKY RUN OUT WHEN YOU REFUSED TO HEED MY WARNINGS. YOUR EVIL DEEDS ARE CATCHING UP WITH YOU AT LAST, UNLUCKY DANKS!

IT'S DRAB... LUCKY THE... THE... OF HE SAID

HERE HE IS MASTER!

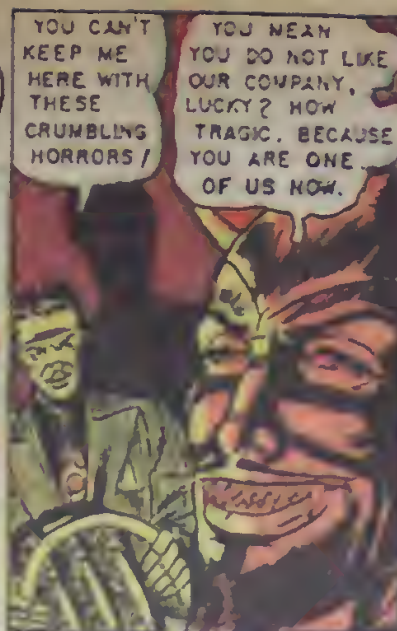
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, LUCKY! WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR A LONG TIME, HAVEN'T WE? YOU ALWAYS GAVE ME CREDIT FOR LOOKING AFTER YOU -- AND I STILL AM, LUCKY/HEH...HEH

OTHERS LIKE YOU FOUNDED THIS TOWN AND NAMED IT AFTER ME! BUT SOMEHOW THEIR LUCK NEVER LASTED -- AND THEY NEVER FOUND WHAT THEY WERE SEEKING. HOWEVER THEY FOUND OTHER THINGS -- HEH -- HEH -- WANT OTHER THINGS



ENJOY YOURSELF, LUCKY, WITH THE REST OF MY CREATURES. THE WORLD THINKS THIS IS A LONG-ABANDONED GHOST TOWN--BUT AS YOU CAN SEE, IT IS VERY GAY AND LIVELY /

UGHH / IT'S HORRIBLE / MAKE THEM LET ME ALONE /



YOU CAN'T KEEP ME HERE WITH THESE CRUMBLING HORRORS /

YOU MEAN YOU DO NOT LIKE OUR COMPANY, LUCKY? HOW TRAGIC. BECAUSE YOU ARE ONE OF US NOW.



IT'S A LIE / ONE-OF THIS CREW / NOT ON YOUR LIFE / THEY'RE DEAD / AND-- AND YOU--DON'T EVEN EXIST /



MY CAR / I--I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY. I'VE STILL GOT THAT GOLO--IT'S ENOUGH FOR ANY MAN / I WAS A FOOL TO COME LOOKING FOR THIS TOWN AND THE MINE.



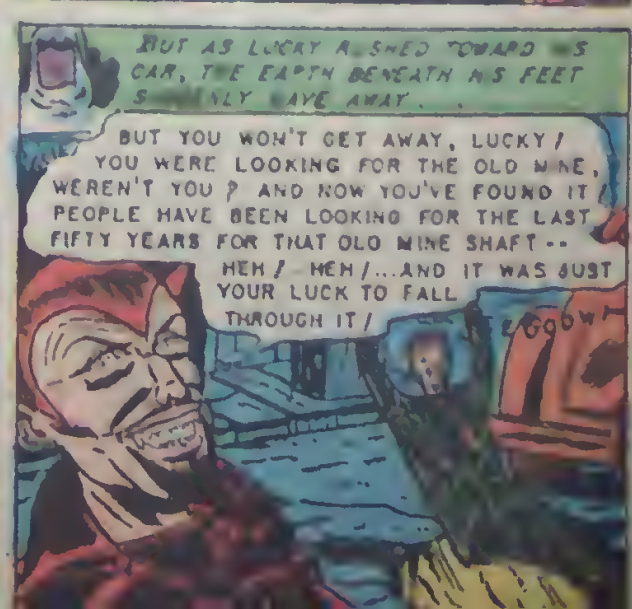
BUT AS LUCKY STARTED TOWARD HIS CAR, HE SAW . . .

THOSE TWO GUYS COMING FROM MY CAR / THEY'VE GOT THE GOLO / WHY--WHY THEY'RE THE TWO WHO WERE FIGHTING OVER IT IN THE DESERT /



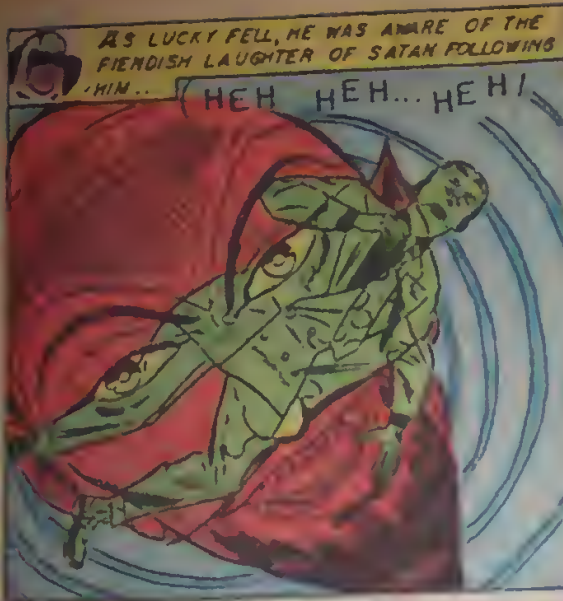
THEY ARE DUTCH NICK AND INDIAN PETE, LUCKY. THEY ARE DOOMED TO FIGHT OVER THE GOLO IN DEATH JUST AS THEY DID IN LIFE... THEY NEVER REALLY POSSESS THE GOLO THEY MURDERED TO OBTAIN. THE GOLO REMAINS A TRAP FOR FOOLS LIKE YOU.

THEY--THEY CAN HAVE THE GOLO / AS LONG AS I GET AWAY --



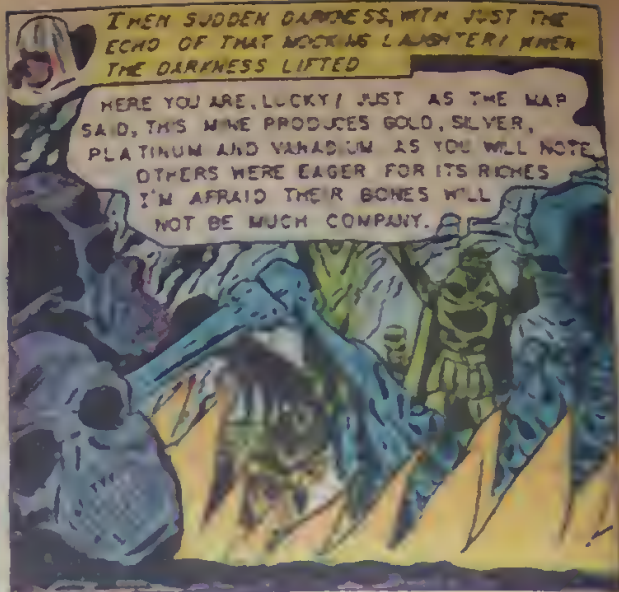
BUT AS LUCKY A SHED TOWARD HIS CAR, THE EARTH BENEATH HIS FEET SLOWLY AVE AWAY . . .

BUT YOU WON'T GET AWAY, LUCKY / YOU WERE LOOKING FOR THE OLD MINE, WEREN'T YOU? AND NOW YOU'VE FOUND IT / PEOPLE HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR THE LAST FIFTY YEARS FOR THAT OLD MINE SHAFT -- HEH / HEH /...AND IT WAS JUST YOUR LUCK TO FALL THROUGH IT /



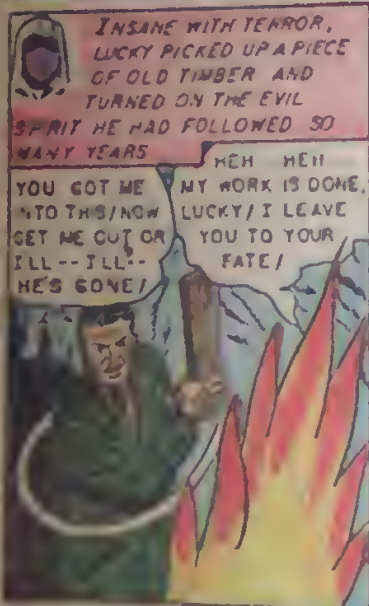
AS LUCKY FELL, HE WAS AWARE OF THE FIENDISH LAUGHTER OF SATAN FOLLOWING HIM...

(HEH HEH... HEH!)



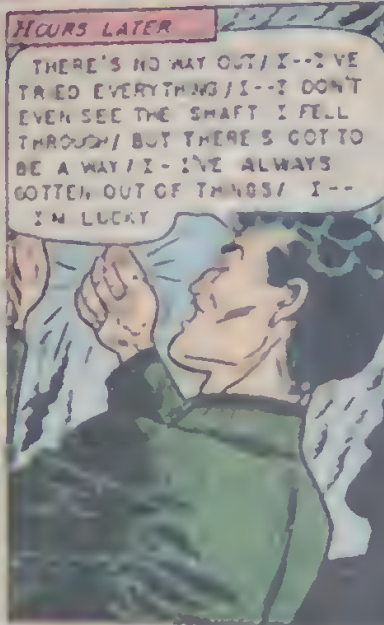
THEN SUDDEN DARKNESS, WITH JUST THE ECHO OF THAT MOCKING LAUGHTER! WHEN THE DARKNESS LIFTED

HERE YOU ARE, LUCKY! JUST AS THE MAP SAID, THIS MINE PRODUCES GOLD, SILVER, PLATINUM AND VANADIUM AS YOU WILL NOTE. OTHERS WERE EAGER FOR ITS RICHES I'M AFRAID THEIR BONES WILL NOT BE MUCH COMPANY.



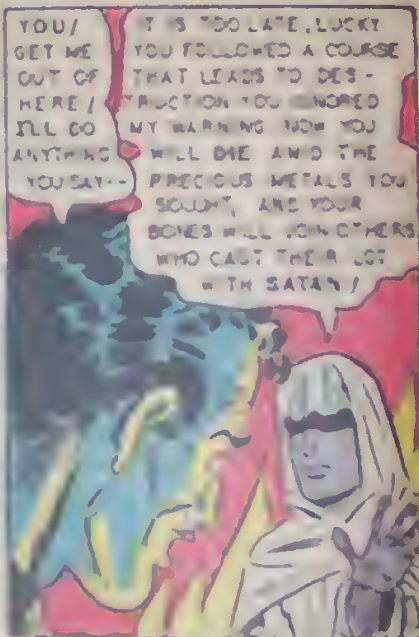
INSANE WITH TERROR, LUCKY PICKED UP A PIECE OF OLD TIMBER AND TURNED ON THE EVIL SPIRIT HE HAD FOLLOWED SO MANY YEARS

HEH HEH MY WORK IS DONE, LUCKY! I LEAVE YOU TO YOUR FATE! YOU GOT ME INTO THIS/NOW GET ME OUT OR I'LL-- I'LL-- HE'S GONE!



HOURS LATER

THERE'S NO WAY OUT! I--I'VE TRIED EVERYTHING! I--I DON'T EVEN SEE THE SHAFT I FELL THROUGH! BUT THERE'S GOT TO BE A WAY! I--I'VE ALWAYS GOTTEN OUT OF TROUBLE! I--I'M LUCKY



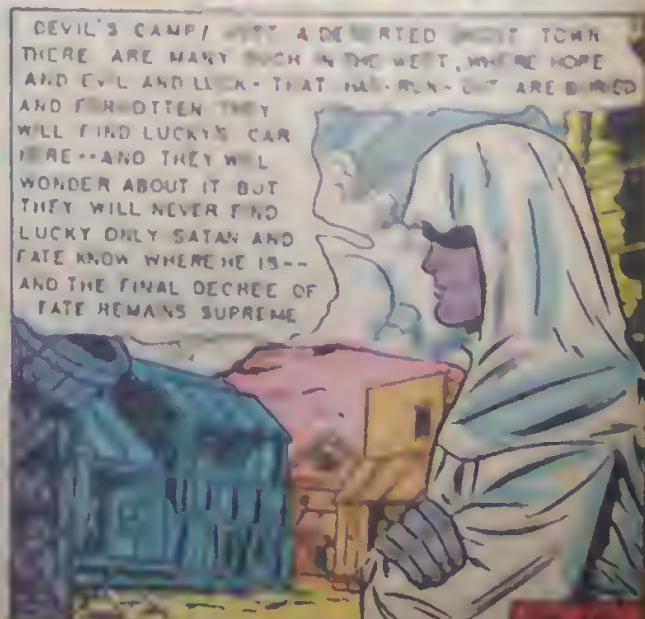
YOU/ GET ME OUT OF HERE! I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU SAY--

IT IS TOO LATE, LUCKY! YOU FOLLOWED A COURSE THAT LEADS TO DESTRUCTION! YOU IGNORED MY WARNING NOW YOU WILL DIE AND THE PRECIOUS METALS YOU SOUGHT, AND YOUR BONES WILL JOIN OTHERS WHO CAUT THE R LOT WITH SATAN!



NO... NO...

THE PAGE OF YOUR LIFE IS FINISHED, LUCKY WE SHALL NOT MEET AGAIN IN THIS LIFE!



DEVIL'S CAMP! JUST A DERELICT MOUNT TOWN THERE ARE MANY SUCH IN THE WEST, WHERE HOPE AND EVIL AND LUCK-- THAT HAS RUN OUT ARE BRED AND FORGOTTEN THEY WILL FIND LUCKY'S CAR HERE--AND THEY WILL WONDER ABOUT IT BUT THEY WILL NEVER FIND LUCKY ONLY SATAN AND FATE KNOW WHERE HE IS-- AND THE FINAL DECREE OF FATE REMAINS SUPREME

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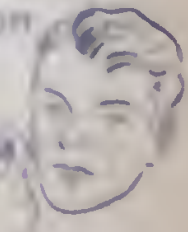
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For more information, write to: Magic Dutch Rock Gardens, Dept. 12, 836 Broadway, New York 3, N. Y.

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